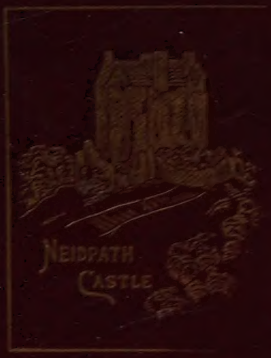

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Bell Crichton
from
Uncle George.

GLIMPSES OF PEEBLES

OR

FORGOTTEN CHAPTERS IN ITS HISTORY

From a Photograph by G. W. Wilson.

HIGH STREET OF PEEBLES.

GLIMPSES OF PEEBLES

OR

FORGOTTEN CHAPTERS

IN ITS HISTORY

BY

REV. ALEX. WILLIAMSON, F.S.A. SCOT.

EDINBURGH

Author of "Light from Eastern Lands," &c.

With Illustrations

SELKIRK: GEORGE LEWIS & CO.

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PREFACE.

This book—as the title indicates—is not intended to be an exhaustive history of Peebles. It is designed to afford merely "Glimpses" of its condition during portions of the last and present centuries. A few pages only are devoted to a sketch of ancient times in the Royal Burgh, and to the origin of those two churches the ruins of which still remain, carrying our thoughts back to an early period of the Scottish monarchy. The author has selected, for various reasons, 1760 as the starting point of his account. But in order to bring into view the age immediately preceding it, there have been introduced what are supposed to be recollections of old persons living at that date, whose fathers may have narrated to them certain events which happened in their days, and whose personal reminiscences embraced the allotted "threescore years and ten" of human existence. Thus, as far as possible, a dry enumeration of facts has been avoided, and an endeavour made to render

the "glimpses" more widely interesting than otherwise they would be.

The author is perfectly well aware of the defects of the volume he now gives to the public, but he trusts that these may be overlooked, and his sincere desire alone remembered, which is to give to the inhabitants of Peebles, and those connected with it, some information they may not possess regarding the town and neighbourhood. He has written the following pages in leisure hours, and the work has been to him a labour of love. Such as it is, he offers it for acceptance.

To the objection which may be taken that many incidents mentioned are not really "forgotten," but are chronicled in the *Records of the Burgh*, edited by the late Dr William Chambers and by Mr Renwick, of Glasgow, as well as in the *Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ* of Dr Hew Scott, it may be replied that these works have no general circulation, that they are to be found only in the libraries of a limited circle, and that, though of inestimable value to the antiquarian, they form unattractive literature to the vast majority of the public. The object has been to preserve notices of local events apt to be forgotten, and of humble as well as conspicuous individuals once well known, but whose names are not familiar to the existing generation; in short, to present PEEBLES AS IT WAS not long before the time in which we live. PEEBLES AS IT IS has not been described. It lies within the sphere of daily observation.

The author cherishes the hope that the *Glimpses* may not be unacceptable to dwellers in his native town; to such as have left it to reside in other parts of the Kingdom, only visiting now and again the scenes of their youth; and to those who, though they have made their homes in far-distant lands, retain bright memories of the green hills, silent glens, sparkling burns of Peeblesshire, the hoary ruins on which they often looked, and the old landmarks of the once quiet, quaint, restful burgh.

Change has gradually crept over Peebles. No longer a "sleepy hollow," as it was deemed—"still as the grave," according to Lord Cockburn—it now exhibits evidences of manufacturing and mercantile activity. It possesses large mills devoted to the celebrated "Tweed trade;" the population is rapidly increasing; new streets and numerous villas have sprung up, covering what were, in the recollection of many people, green fields or luxuriant gardens. The improvements of 1846 swept away the last relics of former days—"outside stairs," prominent wells, arched pends — and enforced a uniformity to which our fathers were strangers. The aspect of the main streets is now obtrusively modern, and few and far between are the vestiges of earlier times. Railway stations, with their inevitable accompaniments, have obliterated the grassy haughs and well-stocked "nurseries" which were familiar to the last generation. Modern enterprise has transformed Peebles. It has planted a mag-

nificent hydropathic establishment, with its lawns and pleasure grounds, on the spot where boys were wont to ramble in search of adventure. It has called into existence an extensive suburb where plantations afforded a resort for juvenile "bird-nesters." It has invaded localities long deemed safe from the intrusion of trade and traffic. The former things have passed away. Names which of yore were household words have gone down into oblivion. Traditions which clustered round crumbling relics of a bygone era, and hung about sequestered spots haunted by the fairies or ghosts which have disappeared, are unknown except to residents far advanced in life, whose "places will soon know them no more." To gather together some of these tales, to link the past to the present, to awaken interest in what has been, is the chief aim of the author.

The natural beauties of the neighbourhood remain to charm all who love the picturesque. The rounded, rolling hills; the spreading woods; the classic river; the brawling streams; the lonely valleys, are still there—improved, perhaps, as agricultural skill has advanced, and taste for scenery has developed, but presenting the same outlines and features as they did to our forefathers. A rich field lies before the antiquarian and the poet. Almost every height has its pre-historic camp, every glen its story, every keep its legend; and there is an indescribable fascination in the landscape that must attract every soul not dead to the beauties of nature.

The author acknowledges the help he has received from many quarters. He is much indebted to Mr Renwick. The "Peeblesshire Society" placed at his disposal, through Mr Stirling and Mr P. H. Cosens, W.S., joint-secretaries, the Minute Book extending from 1782; Mr Charles Ker, those belonging to the "Gutterbluid Club;" Mr Andrew Brown, solicitor, Peebles, that of the "Incomers;" Mr Ramsay Smith, solicitor, the printed proceedings of the Tweeddale Shooting Club, edited by the late Professor Veitch; Mr Alexander Yellowlees, a few extracts from the Session Records of the parish; while the aid afforded by the Rev. A. J. Murray, Clerk to the Presbytery, and by Rev. P. MacVicar, Manor, is mentioned in the body of the volume. It may be added that a few of the sketches appeared in the *Peeblesshire Advertiser*.

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GLIMPSES OF PEEBLES,

OR

FORGOTTEN CHAPTERS IN ITS HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

Peebles in 1760 was a very different town from Peebles in 1895. The area it covered then was much more limited than it is now. It had subsided into a quiet, dull, soporific condition. It once possessed attractions of which it was bereft. For centuries the annual recurrence of "Beltane" had drawn crowds from all quarters to witness the games—horse-races, archery, feats of strength and agility—and to participate in the boisterous festivities which marked the celebration of that ancient and famous fair, the scenes of which had been sung by at least one Royal Poet, but which, about 1760, dropped out of existence. The old race-course between Horsburgh and the East Gate had been exchanged for Whitehaugh Muir, and Whitehaugh had passed from the list of the gradually diminishing possessions of the town. No other suitable field could be obtained. The feeble

effort to revive public interest had proved unsuccessful. Languor crept over the people. Peebles ceased to be the centre of a great national gathering. The loss was severely felt. The money once circulated by visitors of all ranks no longer enriched the merchants of the burgh. Native industries suffered a severe check. Traders who were wont to bring their goods for sale at such a time sought a market elsewhere. Beltane was shorn of its charms for ever. Though the fair lingered on in attenuated form for many years, it gradually dwindled till it is now lost. The name alone survives. In that name is enfolded a long forgotten past. It reflects the fires by which our heathen ancestors lit up the mountain tops in honour of Baal. It reminds us of the gay processions and dances which hailed the advent of May returning with freshness and verdure and beauty to the earth. It recalls to the Peeblean the old days of jollity and mirth which spread the renown of his native place far and wide—the days when James I. and his courtiers held fête and revelry in the castle, the convent, and the "keeps," which have all vanished; when the rough barons or rude "commonalty" rushed to the burgh; and when the Queen and her suite took up their abode in some ecclesiastical dwelling reserved for them. We can readily believe that the tidings of the brutal murder at Perth of the monarch so familiar to the inhabitants of Peebles, and to whom they had such reason for gratitude, excited horror and indignation; and that for years his absence was mourned at

the Beltane gathering. We do not wonder that a daily mass, according to the custom of the period, was said in St Andrew's Church for the repose of his soul.

The population in 1760 did not exceed 1700. The public paths leading from the town were narrow and not well repaired. As a rule they were carried across the hills. They were then as they had been for centuries before. England could be reached by the "drove road." But Peebles was apart from the main route by which trade was carried on with the sister kingdom.

Nevertheless, Peebles had a history of which it might be proud. It had been for ages a royal burgh. It is believed that charters had been granted by William the Lion, Alexanders II. and III., Robert Bruce, and other Scottish sovereigns. They had conferred privileges on it. They had gifted lands to it. Some of them, besides James I., had made it a favourite retreat; fixed their temporary abode in its castle situated between "Peebles Water" and the Tweed; hunted in the glens of the Manor and the Lyne, the Leithen and the Quair; and swept with their brilliant equipages over the green hills to Meggetdale and St Mary's, to the Yarrow and the Ettrick. As a general rule, the royal assemblages for pleasurable and warlike expeditions in the south country were held at Peebles. And it must be borne in mind that in the days of the earlier monarchs "Ettricke feir foreste" was still a part of the vast Caledonian forest, traces of which

are yet visible far away under the shadow of the Cairngorms and in the solitudes of Guisachan in Inverness-shire. Not until James V. exchanged deer for sheep on the uplands of the Yarrow was the desertion of the hunting-ground complete. Queen Mary was disappointed by the results of the chase in a land which was once so well stocked with "game;" and it soon came to pass that only here and there was a lonely, sad, but venerable relic of the immense "brotherhood of noble trees" to be found in all that wide district. No doubt from the time of David I. the ring of the axe was constantly heard in the recesses of the woods; because the industrious monks to whom permission was given to fell and to carry away found in it an inexhaustible supply of timber for their stately abbeys, imposing churches, hospitals, and homes. There was, for centuries, ceaseless havoc among the ranks of oak and yew, chestnut, and elm—and an ancient feature of Scottish landscape gradually disappeared.

We can imagine how eagerly the population of Peebles would turn out to witness the arrival and departure of the king and his nobles. It might be the mighty liberator who at Bannockburn struck the yoke of England from the neck of Scotand, James the Royal Poet, or James "the Knight of Snowdon." And the followers might be Randolph, Earl of Moray, the High Steward; Douglas, the Earl of March, the Earl of Mar; Argyle, Huntly, and Athole, with all their train of attendants and staghounds and horses. The wild Caledonian

cattle, a terror to the weak and unarmed, ceased to roam about. The wolf was soon hunted towards the silent Highland ravines which it haunted till the seventeenth century. Specimens of the boar might be encountered now and again. But in the later period of the monarchy "the hart and the hind" abounded in all the glens and on all the hills, till in Meggetland James V. made such a terrible slaughter of these animals that they almost vanished from the Border counties. As we go up by the burns of Manor, Stobo, Tweedsmuir, or Traquair; climb the heights of Scrape, Dollar Law, Posso Craigs; Cademuir, Hundleshope, Blackhouse, or Polmood, Clockmore, Minchmoor, we can hardly imagine how the overpowering stillness which awes us had been broken by the shouts of the hunters, the twang of the bow, the blast of the horn. Yet many names —as Hartfell, Deerlaw, and others—remind us of the scenes of former days.

Peebles could boast of the poem, already referred to, "Peblis to the Play." It was, moreover, the home of the "Three Priests of Peblis," whose "Tales"[1] were once popular in the land. It was a resort of Darnley, who met his father there in December, 1565. It could tell how its venerable churches—within and without the confines of the burgh—had been founded, repaired, or extended by the piety of kings and high ecclesiastical dignitaries; how they had been renowned in history as the

[1] Republished and modernised by Dr Gunn, of Peebles, an enthusiastic antiquarian.

rendezvous of influential clergy of the Roman Catholic Church; and how solemn conclaves of Bishops had been held within their hallowed walls. It could tell how it possessed the privilege of returning a member to the Scottish Parliament; and how some of its leading men had taken a prominent part in the troubles which so frequently distracted Scotland. It maintained dignity even in decay.

Moreover, Peebles did not escape the curse of war. Invading armies had battered it and burned it. Its situation laid it open to attack. The armies of England occasionally wreaked vengeance on its inhabitants. Its defences were not impregnable. Its walls now and again became ruinous, and required to be rebuilt. The assault and plunder by Sir Robert Umphraville, in 1406, was remembered for generations; for it was on a market day when he appeared, and all the goods of the merchants were readily seized. The destruction of the Town and its churches by another and a later English expedition is also chronicled.

It was the scene of many violent conflicts between the lieges themselves, or between neighbouring lairds who happened to encounter each other on its streets; and on a bright warm July day, in 1572, John Dickison of Winkstoun was foully murdered about the East Gate End. No one saw the assassins commit the deed, and no one was punished for the crime, for the "Assyise" unanimously acquitted five suspected persons. In June, 1590, Patrick Veitch of Dawick was "done to

death" by Tweedies and Crichtons near Neidpath Castle; and five years later a remarkable duel with spears and swords was fought at Edston between Brown of Hartree and George Hepburn. The records of the period afford striking evidence of prevalent turbulence, in which all the county families, almost without exception were involved. There seemed, especially during some of the reigns, to be little protection afforded either to life or property. Might was right.

Executions were frequent, and the last penalty of the law was hanging or drowning. No one standing on "Cuddy Bridge," and looking along Eddleston Water to the Tweed, recalls the fact that on a winter day at the close of 1623 (23rd December) the sentence of the law was carried out on Thomas Patersone, a weaver in the Old Town, and that he was judicially drowned, for sheep-stealing, a little west of that bridge. But so it was. The Provost and Bailies sat in judgment on him as a thief of "yowis" from Aikerfield and the Cloister of the Cross Kirk. He had been taken "red-handed," and could not deny the charge. He was found guilty, tied with four fathoms of cords, bought from John Tuedy, merchant, and kept in the water till he was dead. The officers and others hired to carry out the sentence were duly provided with meat and drink for the occasion; and Cleirie and Makwate, the executioners, received, besides bread, three shillings each for his trouble.

There were several churches and chapels in

Peebles and the neighbourhood, which have all disappeared save two—St Andrew's and the Cross Kirk (or the Halyrude). These were generally spared by the invaders on account of the sanctity which guarded them. The Red Friars and the other orders had immunity from assaults and robbery, and were consequently able to render some help in providing shelter and food for the houseless and distressed around them. The Parsonage likewise escaped. It is no longer the Manse, but it was occupied as such for several hundred years, till 1890. On an old map of the burgh, constructed to show what Peebles was in 1609, it is marked as the "Persounes Manse," and was in existence long previous to that date. The ground was gifted by John Geddes of Rachan in 1427 to St Andrew's Kirk. The origin of that kirk is lost in antiquity, for, although said to have been founded in 1195, it appears that it occupied the site of a much more ancient edifice—by whom built, and to whom dedicated, is unknown. The new church, with its massive square tower, its long lines of cloisters, its courts and corridors, must have been an object of awe and admiration to those inhabitants who had never seen so vast a pile of building. The masonry was, of course, substantial; else it could not have stood the storms of exactly seven hundred years. Though it is true that the greater part of the structure has disappeared, the work of destruction was commenced and completed, not by the warring elements,

but by the hand of the ruthless spoiler. As Peebles was included in the diocese of Glasgow, several important synods were called to meet within its walls; and bishops, priests, and friars, moved in sombre procession along its aisles, bearing crucifixes and chanting psalms. No one can tell whether the interior was elaborately finished with arches and pillars, like a cathedral, because no description has been preserved. But we know it had richly endowed altars, and to them were attached a numerous clergy. There was the altar of St Andrew, the patron saint; of St Christopher, St James, St John the Baptist, St Lawrence, St Martin, St Michael, St Mary or Our Lady, St Mary of Geddes Aisle, St Paul and St Peter, of the Rood and the Holy Blood. These testify to the extent of the old church. The names of many of the clergy are known by means of the Burgh Records — Sir Laurence Johnson, Sir John Allane, Gilbert Tuedy, Sir Adam Foster, and others. In 1562, however, the bells were taken out, and one of them hung in the Cross Kirk to "rigne to the commoun prayeris;" while the other bell was to be laid in the "stepil, to be observit;" and the "trap and timber in the Hie Kirk stepil were to be used to big settis in the Cross Kirk for eis of the parochinaris." The church was not, perhaps, finally deserted; for in 1564 it was ordained by the Council that the prebendaries of St Andrew's keep the exhortation three days in the week, and

sing psalms and do God service, under pain of a fine; and Andrew Frank is appointed to uplift the annuals of St Laurence altar, and account to the bailies and community. These services, however, may have been performed in the Cross Kirk. Moreover, in 1567, all the priests in St Andrew's Kirk were ordered to appear before the bailies and produce their presentations, to be considered by the patrons. James Davidson, John Allan, and Gilbert Twedy did so. In 1606, the Council granted the gift of St Christopher's altar to William Dickson for seven years, to "interteny" him at the schools. What was worse came afterwards, for in 1609 it was ordained that if it were possible "a dowcot was to be biggit on the Hie Kirk steeple." So, by degrees, the glory of St Andrew's waned, as the glory of the Cross Kirk waxed; and the latter was formally recognised as the Parish Church, with Mr John Dikesone as the minister. It never has been forgotten how Cromwell's deputy, General Lambert, desecrated St Andrew's by stabling the horses of his soldiers in it, when he laid siege to Neidpath Castle. The environs, and what was the interior of the church, are now taken up with the graves of many generations, whose dust mingles with the dust of those who, in ages gone by, ministered at the altars of the sacred fane.

The Cross Kirk, erected in the reign of Alexander III. (somewhere about 1261 A.D.), was in close

proximity to the outlying buildings of St Andrew's. A road, yet in use, connected the two churches, and served as a common meeting ground of the clergy, in which they were wont to take their ordinary recreation.

Because a splendid cross was discovered in a field above "Peebles Water," and an urn filled with human bones, as well as a stone with the inscription, "The Place of St Nicholaus Bishop," engraved on it, the Cross Kirk was built. It is affirmed that the discovery was made in presence of "honest men, churchmen, ministers, and burgesses" —but why it happened that they were all present on such an occasion is not fully explained, unless some hint of the "find" had been already circulated. Moreover, as the relics at once proceeded to work miracles, the affair was brought to the knowledge of the reigning monarch—Alexander III.—and he was so impressed with the paramount importance of doing honour to the memory of a saint whose very bones were endowed with superhuman power, that he gave orders to rear a fitting memorial on the spot, to which, with unquestioning confidence, multitudes soon began to flock. An architect was employed to produce a plan; that plan received the royal sanction, masons and joiners and labourers were hired to carry on and complete as soon as possible the sacred edifice. The church was finished, and at a later period the cloisters were added. Other ecclesiastical houses rose in the immediate neighbourhood, and the Halyrude in

due time became famous over the length and breadth of the country. At certain seasons pilgrims approached the church by the road which was, till a comparatively recent period, the main highway from the metropolis, and which led close past Smithfield (now Venlaw House); or by that which ran at the foot of Venlaw hill (above the nurseries and station) towards Innerleithen. These and other public paths were not made for carriages—of which there were few—but for horses and pedestrians. The people were probably permitted to use that which still exists, bordered by trees, conducting from Biggiesknowe to the main entrance of the church. Indeed, it is supposed to have been a public way. The Order of Red Friars was specially favoured by having assigned to it the oversight of this part of the country. The members of the fraternity, clad in their white robes embroidered with red crosses, might be continually met with in the environs of their home; and they ministered, along with their brethren of St Andrew's Kirk, to the spiritual wants of the inhabitants. They traversed the path by the foot of Hamilton Hill to the outlying sanctuary of Chapel Hill, and along by the eastern road to the hospital of St Leonards, under the shadow of Horsburgh Castle. In Chapelhill, so late as 1564, there were preserved certain ornaments, vestments, and jewels in which Gilbert Broune, the minister of the Holy Cross of Peebles, and the brethren John Robin, Thomas Smyth, John Newton, and James Lowis had an interest.

The friars of Halyrude, as well as the priests of St Andrew's Kirk, no doubt took part in the solemn consecration of the chapel raised at the west end of what is now the High Street, close by Peebles Castle—"in honour of the glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God"—the chaplain of which was in 1462 made "tutor and overseer of the almshouse," which was reared also in "the North Raw."

It was in 1462 that the Burgh Court elected Friar Thomas Lorymear to serve in the Cross Kirk; in 1474 that John Scott and Alyson his wife gave to it an annual rent from land in the "Briggate;" in 1555 that the Bailies gave a sum to its minister and convent; and in 1560 it was made the "Parish Kirk," in room of the High Church of St Andrew's, which had been burnt and destroyed by "England" twelve years before. It is called in the Record the "Trinitie Friars' Kirk," as were all churches of the Red Friars, and it was ordained that henceforth the people were to resort to the preaching of God's Word and ministry of the Sacraments as pertain to Christians;" the Bailies in the name of the parishioners to receive the key of the outer door thereof. Mr Gilbert Broune protested that his obedience to the order should "not be to the prejudice of his annual rents and profits of the foresaid place and convent thereof;" and Dionysius Elphingston of Henderston dissented from the decision for the rural portion of the population, and craved

that he might be allowed to perform in St Andrew's "service of common prayers and sacraments" in the same way as John Dikesone had ministered; appealing for "remeid at law at a fitting time and place." This solemn protestation was taken in the "Church of the Holy Cross" about eleven o'clock forenoon on 7th December, 1560, in presence of a notary public, and Andrew Hay, John Matheson, Adam Gillies, and Mungo Williamson, witnesses. But the agitation did not suddenly subside though Gilbert Broune yielded the keys, and commanded "his other brethren and the convent to live separate in time coming, and not to assemble thereafter in the same place;" while Thomas Smyth, "formerly a religious man," protested "that they were in no way separated from the place for any crime or notorious fault."

In 1561 it is observable that a new personage appears on the scene. The elders and deacons of the church desired John Knox, superintendent in Edinburgh, to admit John Allane to be minister. At the same time "the gudis and geyr presentlie within the Hie Kirk and Kirk Dykis" were arrested by the sheriff officer and officers of the burgh. The vestments were to be rouped and the money distributed among the poor. Next year John Willock, superintendent in Glasgow, admitted John Dikesone to be "redare and exhortare of common prayer;" and the people were exhorted to use him "godly and charitably as pertains unto the duties of Christian persons." At the request of Mr Dikesone, the Bailies and com-

munitie appointed elders to watch over the said kirk. As has been mentioned, the bells of St Andrew's were transferred to the Cross Kirk, and the "trap and timber" of the old steeple were also removed there to make seats for the parishioners, who were now to worship according to Protestant and Presbyterian forms. Mr Dikesone did not hesitate to summon his predecessor so often referred to (Mr Gilbert Broune) to appear before the elders to answer for his life and conversation; but this summons was met by a flat declinature, and the counter charge was made that Mr Jhone "backbittit" him, which charge Mr Jhone emphatically denied. Mr Broune afterwards accused a certain John Will of cutting and taking ash trees claimed by the convent. Sir James Davidson, in holy orders, had become blind, and unable to "work and travel for his living;" so the judges decreed that their officers should go round and seize all goods belonging to those who owed him anything as chaplain of the "Ruid altar and Holy Blood altar." It was in April 1571 that Maister Thomas Cranstoun, minister, was paid a third of the parsonage and vicarage of "Mennare and Peblis;" and in December the "inquest" ordained the disobeyers and "contempnaris" of the kirk to be punished according to the use and practice of other reformed towns. The mortcloth with a black silk fringe for use at funerals was given in 1630 by James Williamson, on condition that it was kept by the kirk treasurer of the Parish Church of Peebles or his

successors; but it might be granted to the parishioners of "Ettilstoun," "Kailzeo," "Menner," and Lyne. In 1637 it was agreed that the whole Council should sit each Sabbath day in the "tounes stall in the kirk," and that each Councillor have "ane new hatt therein." Thus was begun the custom of the Provost, Magistrates, and Council attending the Parish Church in their official capacity; while in 1649 the rule was passed that the meetings of Council should be opened and closed with prayer. The church was repaired to some extent in 1652, and the wall of the churchyard (St Andrew's) was rebuilt, for it had become ruinous, and the state of the graveyard scandalous.

The old chapel at the west end of the High Street was finally removed towards the close of the last century, and the ancient Tolbooth disappeared about the same time. An earlier Tolbooth appears to have existed in the Briggate prior to 1463.

An old inhabitant, Mr Walker, says—"I remember about seventy years ago, long before the last levelling of the street, that a lot of stuff was removed from the High Street, between Mr Watson's (the bookseller) and Mr Mitchell's (the baker), and that there was a large quantity of bones, skulls, and thigh bones found; showing, in my opinion, that this had been the burying ground of the chapel, which stood in the site now occupied by the Commercial Bank. I remember, when I was a boy, my grandmother, who was 80 years of age, telling me, that, as a girl, she used to 'scloy' down the Castlehill to where Mr

From a Photograph by G. W. Wilson.

St Andrews Church.

Thorburn's mills are now. Her house stood in the road down to the mills, but was long since pulled down. It was called the Castlehill in her young days, 160 years ago, and that shows there must have been a castle there once."

There were many "keeps" in the neighbourhood of Peebles—Winkston, Hutcheonfield, Smithfield, Shielgreen—and some on the opposite side of the river. But they have been transformed into dykes or folds, and little of them now remains. Neidpath alone stands, venerable and picturesque, on its rocky eminence, overlooking the winding Tweed. It is indeed a ruin, but a stately ruin. Its times of splendour and power have long since vanished, yet there is a silent majesty about it which commands respect. Time was when nobles and even monarchs entered its portals, and armed men were gathered within its walls; when its long avenue was lined by stately trees, and a forest of yews spread darkly around it; when its orchard on the hillside basked in the rays of the summer sun, and its garden was brilliant with flowers; when its well-defined terraces along the banks of the silvery stream formed the favourite promenade for the ladies and their attendant maids, and when a rude hospitality was dispensed in its halls. Like St Andrew's Church, its origin goes far back into antiquity. Its history can only be accurately traced from the fourteenth century, when Sir Simon Fraser, the conqueror, at Roslin, of the English

armies in 1303, seems to have possessed it. To the Hays of Yester it came by marriage; to the Queensberrys by purchase; to the Wemysses by inheritance. It is said that by Sir William Hay the part of the castle facing Peebles was erected, with its massive walls, heavy doors, narrow windows, spiral staircases, and wainscoted apartments. Here James VI. held a court for investigating into the conduct of Traquair. Against its solid masonry Cromwell's general pointed his cannon. For its improvement and adornment Lord Tweeddale spent large sums of money. From its gateway John, Lord Yester, passed in 1666 to wed the daughter of the Duke of Lauderdale; and on its pleasant grounds the Earl of March planted a variety of rare and beautiful trees. It was along its avenue that the funeral procession passed, following the bier of the young and lamented Earl of March, who died suddenly in 1731, and who was born either within its walls or in the winter residence of the family in the High Street of the town.

There can be no doubt that Neidpath Castle possesses a singular charm. Its silent courts, its crumbling battlements, its deserted halls, its remnant of dark old yews, the magnificent view from its high corridor, the relics of departed grandeur, and the history of its past, constitute a powerful attraction, which increases with every visit paid to the venerable structure. When the rays of the summer's evening sun fall on town, and

wood, and stream, and bathe the landscape in mellow light, the fascination is intense; and the visitor loves to linger on its green deserted walk, or on its rocky eminence, and to ponder over the days that are gone.

The year 1760 is chosen as a starting point, because Peebles then retained something of the aspect of ancient days in the small, irregularly built houses with thatched roofs, the arched pends, the "bastel" dwellings, the wynds bearing the names or titles of ecclesiastical dignitaries who had resided in them, or of lairds whose memory was thus preserved to posterity. Part of the old walls still existed, but the greater portion had been removed, and the lines obliterated. The "ports," however, could still be pointed out. Former manners and customs were disappearing though they had not entirely vanished; systems of municipal government and arbitrary rule were being broken up: all things were gradually becoming changed. It was a transition period.

When 1760 opened, amid the customary jubilations with which the advent of a new year was greeted, George II. sat on the throne. When 1760 closed, George III. was king. George II. died suddenly on the 25th of October, and on the same day his grandson, in the twenty-third year of his age, was proclaimed his successor. It was many days before these events became known in Peebles; and at the Cross in the High Street, opposite the

Northgate, the memory of the late and the health of the reigning sovereign were both honoured—the first in solemn silence, the second with boisterous demonstrations of loyalty. Due notice was taken of the demise of the one and the accession of the other on the following Sunday in the Parish Church (the Cross Kirk), but there is no record of what was said from the pulpit on the occasion. The preacher could not have been Mr John Hay, for he was then in his 80th year, and at the point of death.

Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, was the outstanding figure of the Government, and under his guidance the foreign policy of Britain had prospered. The war in Canada had been virtually brought to a close a month before the King's death by the victories of the brave General Wolfe, who broke the power of France in that region. It is interesting to remember that several persons connected with the campaign can be claimed by the county. One was Mr Francis Russell, head of the Military Hospital at Quebec, who took up his abode at the east end of the High Street, in the house known as The Priory, but which, in consequence of his residence, was called Quebec Hall. (It was he who in 1786 presented a pair of bowls to the bowling green for the use of players.) Another was Colonel Alexander Murray of Cringletie, who served with much distinction under the distinguished general. The name of Wolfe is still transmitted from generation to generation in the family of Murray; for it was at the request of Wolfe himself, who acted as god-

father to the Colonel's second son, that the name was at first bestowed. A third was "Drummer Wull;" who was renowned as having beaten a drum at the capture of Quebec. At the close of the war, he renounced the military for the civil service, and succeeded on the occurrence of a vacancy to the ancient and honourable office of drummer to the burgh. Moffat lived to a good old age, but in 1798 confessed that though during fourteen years he had been burgh officer and drummer, and had been the recipient of many favours, he was guilty of "a piece of great misconduct, which, from an unfortunate passionate disposition which he is possessed of, induced him unwarily and most foolishly to send his coat to the treasurer." The cause of this act was equally foolish, and he was so ashamed of it that he would blush to repeat it; "but he trusts his former services and his sincere repentance will enable the Council to reinstate him;" which was done. He and Walker were keepers of the prison. One day it was ascertained that Moffat's wife had been burned, as was said, to a cinder. It was never known what was the cause of the unfortunate occurrence. Other names might be mentioned, but these will suffice. Though the achievements of Wolfe formed a principal topic of conversation about the end of 1760, yet there were people who still spoke much of victories of the British arms in other parts of the world. For Clive, who conquered in India, and inflicted just retribution on the "barbarian" responsible for the

appalling tragedy of the "Black Hole of Calcutta," had recently returned home to receive from the Crown the recogntion he so justly deserved. The news of these events were read not only in the *Edinburgh Courant* (which was published three times a week), and in the *Caledonian Mercury*, but also in the two London papers for which the inhabitants were indebted to Mr John Murray of Philiphaugh, member for the group of burghs of which Peebles was one, and to Mr John Dickson, yr. of Kilbucho, member for the county. These papers were forwarded to the Provost or some other prominent townsman, and duly handed round a select circle, whence the news slowly percolated to the lower stratum of society. Those who wished more varied reading than the organs of public opinion supplied took in the *Weekly Magazine or Edinburgh Amusement*, the *Edinburgh Magazine*, and *Scots Magazine*. In these they obtained not only condensed accounts (very condensed accounts) of Parliamentary proceedings, but scraps of gossip, short tales, essays, original poetry, and reviews of books.

At this period there were certain indications of unrest in the ecclesiastical world. But no wave of popular opinion broke on the calm tenor of Peebles life to create alarm or dispute. Among the leaders of the Church were men of great ability and learning, though their attitude was somewhat too uncompromising towards those who differed from them. These rulers were Dr Drysdale and Dr Cumming, Dr Blair, the celebrated preacher; and Dr Carlyle, of

Inveresk (commonly called "Jupiter Carlyle"); but the greatest of all was just appearing on the scene—Rev. William Robertson of Gladsmuir, afterwards Principal Robertson, the historian, the most eminent man the Church of Scotland had produced. It was close on 1760 that the second secession took place. The first had been that of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine, and the dissenting body which they had called into existence had as yet no "meeting-house" in Peebles. But now Mr Thomas Gillespie had withdrawn from the church, and was about to constitute the parent Relief Presbytery at Colinsburgh, with the aid of Mr Thomas Boston and Mr Collier. Boston was already pastor of a congregation which had erected a meeting-house in Jedburgh, whither he had gone from Oxnam. He was the son of the eminently pious and worthy Mr Thomas Boston, of Ettrick, author of the "Fourfold State" and other works, which were favourite reading for multitudes till they were crushed out by lighter and consequently more acceptable literature. Thomas is occasionally referred to by his father in his diary, and always with much affection. Mr Boston, senior, paid occasional visits to Peebles on his journeys from Ettrick to Edinburgh, when he went to attend the General Assembly; to look after some of his publications; or, as happened on one occasion, to visit his daughter Jane, who was seriously ill. He arrived at Peebles sometimes by way of Craig, Blackhouse, and Traquair; sometimes by Cardrona, coming down the drove road at Haystoun Burn. With whom

he spent the night is not known. Very likely he put up at the Cross Keys, and went on early next morning by the road to Edinburgh, which passed close to Smithfield—now Venlaw House. He makes no mention of any acquaintances in Peebles, or of his preaching there. In all probability neither Mr James Thomson[1] nor Mr John Hay, ministers from 1696 to 1760, sympathised with his views.

Mr John Hay had a long incumbency of forty-three years. He lived to the age of eighty, and was connected with the Hays who had been ministers of Peebles, with slight intervals, from 1610 to 1690, and were of the same family as the Hays of Haystoun. Mr John Hay was nephew to his namesake, who was minister of Manor from 1661 till his translation to Govan in 1663. Having remained there for four years, he was afterwards inducted to Peebles, in 1667, where he died in 1690, having been about thirty years a minister. He had a chequered career, for his settlement in Manor was forbidden by the Privy Council on the restoration of Episcopacy; and seven ministers who took part in his settlement were required to answer for their con-

[1] Mr Thomson latterly was not considered an efficient minister, if one may judge from the fact that in June 1711 the Town Council commissioned John Tweedie, ex-Provost, and Robert Forrester, present treasurer, to go to Lyne next Presbytery day and crave a speedy visitation of the Parish of Peebles, which had been neglected. In July following they appointed John Henderson, Dean of Guild, and Robert Forrester to present "the grievances against Mr Thomsone, minister here, in their name, and as representing the community of the burgh, to the Presbytery against Wednesday next, and endeavour to get the same fully discust, and if need be to appeal to next Synod or Generall Assembly."

duct, under pain of rebellion. Mr John, the nephew, born in 1680, had been chaplain to the Marquis of Tweeddale, was licensed by the Presbytery of Haddington in 1710, and presented to Peebles by the Earl of March in 1713. Though he was thirty-three years of age, the Magistrates and people opposed his settlement on account of his youth. Mr Alexander Williamson, Sheriff-Clerk, appeared before the Presbytery as the Earl's Commissioner in the case; but the feeling of the Presbytery, as also of the people, was to resist the settlement. The case went to the General Assembly, which passed an Act appointing the ordination to take place; and, in respect of the attitude of members of the Presbytery of Peebles towards Mr Hay, appointed seven ministers of the Presbytery of Edinburgh to act as assessors. They, with a few concurring members of Presbytery, effected the settlement; and at next meeting, when the minute regarding the matter was produced, the Moderator and Clerk left their places and refused to welcome the new member.[1] Though we cannot tell how the Presbytery was divided in this matter, the following were the members: — Mr Wallace, Drummelzier; Mr James Robertson, Eddleston; Mr James Gray, Innerleithen; Mr Alexander Walker, Kirkurd; Mr Daniel Gilchrist, Linton; Mr Samuel Mitchelson, Lyne; Mr Andrew Mitchell, Manor; Mr Stephen Paton, Newlands; Mr William Russell,

[1] The above has been kindly supplied by the Rev. A. J. Murray, of Eddleston, Clerk to the Presbytery of Peebles.

Stobo; Mr George Smith, Dawick; Mr William Livingstone, Traquair; Mr William Higgins, Tweedsmuir. The opposition lasted for no less than four years, and not until June, 1717, was Mr Hay ordained to the charge. Not long after he took up his residence in the manse he married (in February, 1718) Margaret, daughter of Mr Brown, proprietor of Coalston; and on her death, Miss Henrietta Porteous.

Charles II. was reigning at the time of Mr Hay's birth. He was a child when all those stirring events took place which culminated in the Revolution Settlement of 1688. It must have been extremely interesting to hear from his own lips, when he had reached well-nigh fourscore years, his reminiscences of what happened during that long period. Unfortunately he did not note down his recollections, keep a diary, or compose a "history of his own times." A narrative embracing what his uncle had told him about Manor and Govan (then a small hamlet at a distance from Glasgow), about Peebles before the days of the Rev. Mr Freithie and Rev. Mr Veitch, supplemented by his own experiences during the forty-three years of his ministry, would now be most valuable. Even his successor, Dr Dalgleish, never apparently dreamed of handing down to posterity a sketch of the changes he had witnessed. He wrote, indeed, the Statistical Account of the parish, but it is somewhat meagre and unsatisfactory. One can imagine the interest attaching to a lecture from Mr Hay upon "Old times," into which

he would weave his own with his uncle's stories, together ranging over more than a hundred years! He must have heard a great deal of the "killing times;" of the terrible sufferings of those faithful to "Christ's Crown and Covenant;" of the "bloody Claverse;" of the exploits of a Peeblesshire man—Colonel Douglas, brother of the Duke of Queensberry, who attacked the Covenanters at Tweedsmuir, and murdered John Hunter at Corehead. He must have been told by eyewitnesses of the scenes at Rullion Green, Drumclog, and Bothwell Brig; of the misery of the poor captives in Greyfriars Churchyard; and of the execution of Mr James Nichol, of Peebles. The tale of the latter's apprehension and death is given in the "Annals of the Persecution," by Aikman, author of the "History of Scotland." James Nichol, a merchant in Peebles, was intending to ride home from the Grassmarket; when, after mounting his horse, he was stopped by the crowd which had gathered for the execution of some young men who had rescued a few of their friends from the soldiers in Enterkin Pass a day or two before. They had been fired at, wounded, and made prisoners by a party under Claverhouse, brought to Edinburgh, tried, and executed the same day. As he saw the sad spectacle of these lads on the scaffold, Nichol, "in the bitterness of his heart, exclaimed, 'These kine of Bashan have pushed these good men to death at one push, contrary to their own base laws, in a most inhuman manner.'" He was at once seized, and in a few days followed them to the gallows,

along with William Young, from Evandale, "a good man, but distempered and crazed in his judgment."

Aged people lived in Peebles who would repeat to Mr Hay what their fathers had told them of the plague which, in 1645, swept away many of their neighbours and friends, whose graves were pointed out in the Gytes or elsewhere;[1] of the Marquis of Montrose riding in from Traquair (where he had received but a cold welcome at the "House" after the disastrous rout of Philiphaugh), and onwards to Biggar; of General Lambert, whom they had seen at the head of his troops moving to Neidpath Castle and planting his cannon against its hoary walls; of the consternation which prevailed in March, 1652, on "Mirk Monday," when the sun was eclipsed for some hours, and there was a general conviction that the Last Day was at hand; of the dealing with, and condemnation of witches, and of those burnings of which they had actually been spectators. These venerable informants could tell him of the noise and turmoil when the Earl of Traquair and several county gentlemen, who were in Peebles for the purpose of concocting measures for enforcing order in the south of Scotland, became objects of attack, and were assailed by a roving mob of armed men. They could describe to him the appearance of the English regiment which came to garrison the

[1] The victims of the pest were seldom buried in the churchyard, and if they were, it was in a spot set aside for themselves —a spot which would be ever after shunned—and against the opening of which a prohibition was laid, lest the dreaded disease might break forth again.

town and prevent further mischief. And if Mr Hay spoke to them about the Cross Kirk they could inform him how, when they were children, they saw, in 1649, William Lowes employed to "reform the town seats," and "make pews beneath the same;" and how, too, the merchants "biggit" a seat for themselves, "directly fra the new wester loft till the new seat of the Magistrates and Council." Nay, more, they could go so far back as to tell him they had seen Bishop Leighton, of Dunkeld, as he went to the Cross Kirk to preside over the Synod of the Clergy he had summoned to meet him!

Mr Hay's own memory would carry him back to the accession of William and Mary to the throne. He may have heard, when he was in Edinburgh, the proclamation read at the Cross dethroning King James; and he must have known of the refusal of some of the ministers of the Peebles Presbytery to pray for their Majesties. He was perhaps acquainted with his predecessor, Mr William Veitch, who had been confined as a prisoner on the Bass, driven to Holland, received back to this country, elected to the Church and Parish in spite of the opposition of the Duke of Queensberry and other supporters of Episcopacy, and who, during a troubled incumbency of three or four years, received no stipend, but was landed in debt and poverty. He knew how finally, though against his will, he was translated to Dumfries in 1694.[1] Mr Hay might have

[1] Mr Veitch was the first minister after the Revolution Settlement, and in the Burgh Records, under date 13th Jan.,

heard his uncle speak, too, of Mr Freithie (Veitch's predecessor), who, likewise, had been a prisoner on the Bass, and was for the brief space of two years minister of Peebles, where he died at the age of 53, and was buried in St Andrew's Churchyard. He might have conversed with the venerable Mr Richard Powrie, minister of Dawick, who incurred the censure of the Church and the condemnation of the Courts for performing the ceremony of marriage between Lord Linton and his second wife, Lady Ann Seaton. It is very probable he had been a spectator of the proceedings of the Scottish Parliament; had looked on Principal Carstairs; had heard of his remonstrance with King William in the middle of the night about the intended exercise of his authority over the Church; by which bold remonstrance the Church was saved. He was well acquainted with the events ushering in and following the Union, for he was then a man of twenty-six; and he must have known the feelings entertained concerning it in Peebles. He knew Provost Forrester, who, in 1708, was sent as a Commissioner from the Burgh to Linlithgow, there to meet with the Commissioners from the other Burghs in the group and appoint a member to the British Parliament, when the Provost's instructions were to vote for Colonel George or Lord Douglas,

1692, the Town Council appointed Mr John Mure, late Provost, and Bailie Shiell to attend the General Assembly, and "act in their name for making effectual the call given by them and the rest of the heritors to Mr William Veitch to be minister of Peebles."

brother-germain to the Earl of Morton. Mr Hay was, doubtless, loyal to the House of Hanover; but he had a co-Presbyter who was not so well disposed. Mr Russell of Stobo had refused to pray for King George in 1715, and so marked had been his conduct that his deposition was actually discussed by the Presbytery; but as he was fain to make a show of yielding nothing was done. This, however, was before Mr Hay came. Mr Hay lived through that Rebellion and also the Rebellion of 1745. In the former year Peebles was not visited by the Highlanders, but in the latter they arrived and encamped on the west side of what is now Hay Lodge. Prince Charles was not with the troop; he had taken the road to England by Lauder. The detachment which overawed the good people of the burgh was under Lord George Murray. It consisted principally of artillery, and the tidings of its approach caused the greatest alarm. There were, perhaps, not many Jacobites in the town; yet several influential adherents of the Pretender were in the county. Had Charles Edward come himself, he might have made a number of converts. His fine personal appearance, the grace of his manners, the combined urbanity and dignity which were conspicuous in his conversation, would have captivated many hearts in Peebles. The invasion occurred on a sharp, cold, winter day—Saturday the 2nd of November. Robert Chambers gives a picturesque description of the scene. "The sun was setting as the first lines devolved from the hills

which environ the place on every side, and throwing back a thousand threatening glances from the arms of the moving band, caused alarm among the peaceful townsmen, who had only heard about the insurrection and its agents to make them fear the worst from the visit. Contrary to expectation, the mountaineers neither attempted to cut the throats nor violate the property of the inhabitants. The leader demanded payment of cess on pain of military execution, and little parties calling upon various householders within and without the town requested such supplies of provisions as could properly be spared, with the alternative of having their houses given up to plunder. But scarcely any incivility was shown at the outset." It must have been very trying to Mr Hay, Provost Forrester, and the other worthies to find that on Sunday all the mills were set agoing, in order that meal might be procured for the march, which was to be resumed in a few days by Stobo and Tweedsmuir. Amongst those persons visited by the Highlanders "on business" was Mr Williamson, who was the proprietor of, and lived at, Chapelhill—a quaint old house which bears evidence of great antiquity. A part of the garden wall, which dates back to the time when a chapel or religious house occupied the site, still exists; and a few of the venerable trees which once formed a magnificent avenue are yet to be seen. The property belonged to a family of Pringles, from whom Mr Williamson purchased it. Many stories of

its past still linger; and one is that at twelve o'clock at night a lady in a white sheet, carrying her bloody head in a salver, may be encountered flitting about or crossing the public road. Probably she was "laid" long ago, for she has not been visible to any of the present generation. The appearance of former grandeur yet lingers amid neglect and decay. There is an air of peace, almost of desolation, about picturesque Chapelhill.

Provost Forrester belonged to an old family, the Forresters of Corstorphine. The name of Thom Forstar (as it was spelled) was a witness to a deed in October, 1456. Robert Forstar was one of a qwest, 16th January, 1457. Mechal Forest was allowed "burgess silwer," and Rob Fosstar took the customs for "× pond." Sir Adam Fosstar is styled "servande to the Rude service"—so the Cross Kirk had something to do with "the House of Alms." Andro Fostare was a quartermaster, who had charge of a quarter of the town in 1465. But, so far as seen from the Burgh Records, edited by Dr William Chambers, they disappear from public life till Sir Adam Forstar is found as member of qwest in 1640. Robert Forrester, who was a merchant in Peebles, and one of the Town Council, from 1610, died 1st December, 1688. He was twice married—first to Bessy Twedy, and next to Bessy Tait, and he had five sons. His third son, born of Bessy Twedy 14th April, 1652, died in 1701. He was Dean of Guild, 1689; Bailie, 1691; and Provost, 1694. In the latter year he and some

of the Council were deputed to visit Hawick to hear Mr Orrock preach, and report on his qualifications. This was when a vacancy had occurred in the Parish Church by the translation of Mr William Veitch to Dumfries. They had not been quite satisfied with Mr Orrock, or something had come in the way, because Mr Thomson was called from Drummelzier to succeed Mr Veitch. "While no doubt," as a correspondent connected with the Forresters writes, "the office of Provost was one of honour and dignity; still it had its trials and tribulations. The Provost was assaulted on 7th August, 1695, and 'compleaned to the Counsell upon John Shiell, burgess of Peebles, for falling upon him on Thursday night late in the Dean's Wynd,' as he was coming home about ten of the clock, and dinging off his hatt and periwig, and allegit that he having conceived some prejudice against him did seek him severale times in severale houses and in his own house, when he would not believe his family, but went and searched the beds; and John Shiell denying, the Provost offered to prove the samen, and for proving thereof addressed first James Johnston, carter, who being sworn, thairupon depones that the night libelled he heard the Provost and John Shiell in the wynd, and they being parted he heard John Shiell say either 'gae hame, you drunken rascal,' or 'daft rascal.' William Rankin, witness, depones that he having been with the Provost going up the wynd, John Shiell came behind and said 'goe home soon, Sir.' The Provost answered, 'It seems, John, that you are seeking a

mischief,' quhair upon John Shiell came forward and strook at him with both his hands, and that his hatt and periwig went off, and that he heard him call the Provost a 'daft drunken dog, and that he was worse than daft Jock Forrester.' John Shiell was sentenced to close prison for eight days, and after that to remain in prison until he delivered up his burgess ticket, and to pay thirty pounds Scots. The burgess ticket was torn at the Cross by the common hangman." Provost Forrester died in 1701, and his walking-stick, probably the same he carried on that eventful night, is in possession of Miss Hardy, Edinburgh. His nephew, above alluded to, was the Provost in 1745. Provost Forrester's brother was James, minister of Culter, ordained 30th April, 1700, and died 30th December, 1749, aged 74. Janet Bertram, his wife, died 11th February, 1760, aged 81. On the tombstone is "The trumpet shall sound."—1 Cor. 15 chap., 52 ver. James' son, William, was minister of Carstairs—born 1709, died 1785. Descendants of the same family were Mr Forrester, treasurer to the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh; Mr John Forrester, W.S., Rev. Mr Forrester, of West Linton, and his son who succeeded his father in the charge; also Mr Forrester, proprietor of Barns, who bought that estate from the Burnetts.

It was well known that the Burnetts of Barns—an old family dating back to 1300 or 1400, and at that period possessing considerable property in Manor, Peebles, and other parishes—were favour-

able to the Pretender. The Tower of Barns for more than 300 years had been their strong fortress; and they had not always proved to be the gentlest, most self-denying, and simplest of neighbours. They had, as Roman Catholics, enriched St Gordian's Kirk, in the wild valley of Manor, more populous then than now; and when they became Episcopalians they never showed much sympathy towards Presbyterians. The letter published in *Blackwood's Magazine* for July, 1894, in the course of an article by the late Professor Veitch, entitled "Side Lights on the battles of Falkirk and Preston," reveals their leanings towards the cause of Prince Charlie. Mr David Beath, "a teacher of writing in Edinburgh, and an ardent Jacobite," kept up a correspondence with Mr Burnett even after the Rebellion was crushed. It was by Mr Beath that "Miss Flory M'Donald was advanced in her writing" when she was in Edinburgh in 1747. Another correspondent was Mr Christie of Durie, in Fife, who resided for some time in Neidpath Castle; and he gives much interesting information.

Professor Veitch also mentions that there was but one Jacobite in Stobo when the Highlanders were in the county. All the other people, fearing the "Hielantmen," had withdrawn their cattle and horses, as the Peebles folks had done. "This solitary believer in the Pretender disdained to put his cow out of the line of their march. The result was that, notwithstanding his belief in the

trustworthiness and lofty motives of the band, his cow was carried off—the solitary trophy from the parish of Stobo." If Mr Russell, the late minister, had been alive, he might have made a second believer, and had like cause to modify his faith. But his successor, Mr John Baird, was "not at home," and his horse and cow were likewise absent when the detachment marched through the parish. So they were saved.

The Highlanders proceeded to Broughton, thence to Biggar, on to Elvanfoot and Dumfriesshire. Mr John Murray of Broughton was secretary to the Pretender; he wrote his proclamations, took charge of his correspondence, and was most active and enthusiastic in his cause. But, like all others, he suffered for his adhesion to the Prince, as he became a fugitive in his native county, was seized, and imprisoned in Edinburgh. It is said that when Charles Edward visited Broughton House Mr Murray sent over to Cloverhill for James Paterson, one of his tenants, in order to introduce him to his future King. The Prince filled up a glass of whisky and asked him to drink success. He lifted the glass, and drank to all "good intentions." Mr Murray said—"Ye're an obstinate man." This story is told by a grandson of Mr Paterson, resident in Broughton.

The Highlanders marched from Stobo to Broughton on their way to England, and some of them lodged all night at Kilbucho, Broughton, and Broughton Place; and, adds our informant, "they

kept my grandmother cooking a great part of the night. The bread she baked was never turned on the girdle, but eaten half raw. On their return from England, however, they were very disconsolate."

The receipt photographed is in the handwriting of John Murray. We are indebted for it to Mr Henderson.

The fortunes of the Highlanders in England are well known, and need not be repeated. But it is interesting, as throwing "a side light" on their manners and customs, to read the following letter, never before published, from the Countess of Annandale, giving a most vivid description of their conduct.

COMLONGON, Jany. 17, 1746.

Sir, ... My Dear Boys being at Home when the H———d army returned was lucky, as it freed me from the anxiety you mentioned; and their company was an amusement to me in such disturbances as this Countrey was in at their return on the 21st of December, the day my House was visited by 3 o'clock in the morning, when a Captain and Five Men entered the House and staid till seven. They asked for arms and horses—the former I had none. Then they went to the stables and woud have taken all my Mares, but Mr H-g-n pleaded hard for them, and told them I was afflicted with the Gout, and that I had no way of Exercising but in the coach, which prevail'd with them so far as to leave me four; but the odd one they woud, and two of H-g-n's best Horses (which I was sorry for, as it's a loss to his Busines), and after they got plenty of meat and drink they all went to Sir W. G——'s, who lost some horses too. After the morning was over I had a Nother Visit of 40 More, who came at two o'clock, and made

I John Murray of Broughton
grants me to have received from
James Dickson Tennant in Lau-
rieknowe the sum of two hunde-
red and thirteen pound five shill
and eight pennies Scots as a
years rent due me from Whit-
sunday one thousand seven
hundred and forty nine Whits
sunday one thousand seven
hundred and forty one
and hereby discharges him
of the foresaid years rent
at Broughton y^e 4^th
of December one thousand
seven hundred and forty
one years

J. Murray

means Recit of
three accots Contg three
Shilling Eight pen
Scots

the same Demand as the former; but as I had time I sent the best of my Mares out of the way, and by that means saved them; but they threatened to shoot one of Mr H.'s workmen if he did not tell where my Mares were, for they said they knew I had five and a shelty; but the man said he knew not where they were, which pacified them. Then they sliped round the parks and got a poor old Dragoon of Mr H.'s, but "her found it was not able to go far; so they told Mr H.'s plow-boy that her woud sell him for ten shillings, but the Boy said he had but 6d. Well, then, her will let you have him for 6d." And after eating and drinking, 34 of them marched off, but the other six, who was not so able to goe on to Dumfries, said they woud lye here. Guests I woud not have wished for, but what one can't remedy it's best to bear, and they were carried to the stable Beds, which by no means pleased them; for they said they woud not lye anywhere but in a good room with Fire, and was goeing to draw their Broadswords, but by telling them there was no room in the House, and that they shoud want for Nothing, they were at last prevailed upon to sleep in their quarters; but they declared if anybody offered to come where they lay they woud shoot them. They took their arms to bed with them, but as they found Nothing molested them they were away by sixe in the Morning, after a good Breakfast of meat and cheese, ale, good brandy, and was so civill as never to set their foot in ye House, sent their service to me, and thanks for their good entertainment, and told my Boys (who were much diverted with them) that they were namesakes. For M'Donalds, which they were, was the same with Johnstone. But I own I was very glad when my cousins were gon, tho' I realy Bore it better than I coud have Imagined. All the effects of it were breaking a Night's rest and eating no dinner, which were Triffells to what my Neighbours suffered, for those who went to the Stonn plundered the House, leaving and his wife and Mrs Barson (who was tending the wife in her Lying Inn) nothing but the cloaths on their Backs, and had near killed if he had not run for it; and the poor wife, who had Lain Inn but a

fortnight, was obliged to quite her bed and walk bear Foot a mile with her Bairn, and Tot Barson after her. I hope in God we shall never see them More, for they ruin wherever they goe. Where they are now, I know not. I wish, both for publick and private, it was at an End, for Busines is at an end, and no money to be had in the countrey. My Boys, who are very well, left me yesterday Morrning, and will, I hope, be this Night at Appelby. They desired I woud make their duty acceptable to their dear Uncle when I wrote. Charles is so zealous a Man for the Royall Famely that I am sure if he could have got a horse, and known the way, he woud have follow'd Lord Malton's son's example; for he was quite wild to pay his duty to the Duke of Cumberland at Carlisle, and can talk of nothing but cannons and seiges and scaling of walls—nay, he even dreams of it; but I hope his Book will now take its place till he is of an age to serve his countrey. I had the pleasure of seeing my brother, Walter Johnstone, who is very well, and now at Carlisle. My Boys were to sup with him last night, and Charles said he would get his Uncle to show him where the Breach in the Castle Wall was made.

I am glad our post to London from this is again restored, as I shall have the pleasure of hearing often of My Friend and your health; and am much obliged for all your kind wishes and news, but I fear the poor Scots will be in the state of an Old Almanack, if not worse.

In your next I shoud be glad to know if Captain Vincent is in town, as I have not heard from him since October. . . . I am very sorry for Mr Johnstone of Wamphrey's death, as he was truly a Man of Worth and Friendship, which makes the loss greater, as the world does not abound in such men.

Thank God my health is such as admits of a visit to the Brow most days, and the Weather Favours. It being as soft and sweat as in April, that the trees are buding and spring flowers make their appearance; but I wish St Paul's day don't produce as great a change as was last year.

I think it is time to draw the 9th page to conclusion by assuring you how much I wish the health and prosperity of

Westerhall, and that I am, Sir, your most affectionate, obliged, humble servant, C. ANNANDALE.

Mis is well, and her dear Uncle's Duty full Neice. Be so kind as make my compliments to all my friends who are so kind to make enquiries after me.

P.S.—I was so lucky to get the Mare again by Stephen's Interest. I knew nothing of it till done, which was better still, so that the Gout and the Rope have been of service."

It is narrated in connection with the Highlanders' visit to Peebles, that one of them was so charmed with the fertility of the fields, the magnificent trees about the Manor and Tweed, the pastoral beauty of the whole scene, that he said—"When she comes back she will settle in Glen Tweed."

Sometime afterwards a Royalist corps marched through Peeblesshire, on the highway from Newlands and Lyne to Peebles. It was the intention of the officer in charge to "look in" at Barns, for suspicion was strong against the Burnetts. The minister of Lyne, Mr Johnston (himself a staunch supporter of the Government, but on friendly terms with his neighbours across the Tweed), being on the road as they passed, accosted the commander, praised his zeal in the good cause, found out his mission, and invited the troop to a short rest and substantial refreshment in the manse. The invitation was readily accepted, a substantial meal was set before them, the supply of ale was not stinted, and while they enjoyed their repast a trustworthy messenger was sent off to warn Mr Burnett of the visitors he

might soon expect. Accordingly, when the soldiers reached Barns, the nest was empty for the birds had flown. In their haste, it is said, they deposited a quantity of silver plate in the dungeon of the tower, where it was found long afterwards. The alarm subsided. The Burnetts remained unmolested; but the property, diminished at various times by sales to meet contingencies, was sold, in 1838, by Captain Burnett, the last laird of the name.

It is matter of deep gratitude to Him who ruleth over all that the enterprise of Prince Charles Edward Stuart failed, that on the field of Culloden his hopes were blasted, and that he was compelled to seek refuge on a foreign shore. A great national deliverance was vouchsafed. The old dynasty was not re-established on the Throne of "this vast Empire;" the danger to civil and religious liberty—to the Protestantism of the land—was happily averted. We cannot but deprecate the harsh treatment meted out to many of Charles's devoted followers when the Rebellion collapsed. But we must unfeignedly rejoice at the crushing blow dealt to the Prince and his adherents in their effort to regain the sceptre which had been plucked from the hands of his grandsire. Nevertheless, one benefit that crusade has conferred. It has given us as an imperishable legacy, the Jacobite minstrelsy. No Scottish heart is untouched by the songs which recall the devotion of Charles's Highland host—the heroism he displayed, the privations he endured, and the dangers he so narrowly escaped. Out of the peril has sprung the spirit of a poetry

which never fails to charm, with its soft and sad, sweet and tender melody. The pathetic lays and the stirring ballads of which "Bonnie Prince Charlie" was the hero are immortal. It is surely an evidence that fear has vanished from the land when in all classes, from the Queen to her humblest subjects, and with people of all shades of politics, these Jacobite songs are so popular.

Mr John Hay was minister of Peebles at the time the parish of Dawick was suppressed, in 1742, and annexed to the adjacent parishes of Stobo and Drummelzier. (Kailzie had been suppressed in 1647.) Dawick had been at one time the property of the Veitches, who—descended from William de la Vache—came into the county at a very early date. It was once a vicarage of Stobo, and the minister, whom Mr Hay knew as a member of the Presbytery and a near neighbour, was Mr Richard Broune, who had been presented in 1729, and died there in 1742. Mr Hay probably preached now and again in the Old Church of Dawick, the site of which is preserved by the burial vault of the Nasmyths on a picturesque eminence overlooking the Tweed; and some old grass-covered tombstones may still be detected in what was the churchyard by which it was surrounded. The bell of Dawick Church is preserved in Dawick House. Upon it is inscribed:—"Sir John Veitch, His Majesties M.R. of Works, caused James Monteith found this bell for the Kirk of Dawyck, 1642, and refounded by order of Sir James Nasmyth of New Posso, Bart.,

Feby. 1791, by W. & G. Armstrong, Founders, Edinburgh."

It seems that the vessels used in the Roman Catholic service in Peebles had disappeared. What became of them is not exactly clear. It is known from the Burgh Records that, in 1458, "Master John Geddes" was ordered to make a chalice, "the prys of a honder shillings," and Sir John Bylston was to "mak up our Ladi Chalice be Lammas." And an act of sacrilege was committed in 1559, because on 5th July that year James Frank, one of an old and well known family in Peebles, pledged himself to deliver to the authorities an equivalent for the silver chalice missing at the death of Sir Johne Ker, chaplain of "Geddes Ile," the value of which was "ten poundis of monei," because it was notorious that the "patene thairof was thiftuslie stolling." In 1563, however, the Council ordained that a chalice which was preserved in the steeple was to "be maid money of," and the proceeds placed in the hands of the Treasurer and Bailies. (This was the year in which there was an estrangement between John Knox and Moray, in which an Act was passed by Parliament to repair the parish churches, and in which the great Reformer had that celebrated interview with Queen Mary, when she burst into a passionate fit of weeping at his stern and unrelenting rebuke. It was when Knox made his way up the Canongate from Holyrood after the scene he uttered the long remembered words, "better that women weep than bearded men.") The Peebles

Council had already "rouped" the vestments of the priests, and distributed the money amongst the poor. The lands and houses belonging to the Church were rapidly disposed of by the Churchmen in fear of confiscation—Arnot's Haugh, Dean's Wynd, Dean's House, and Dean's Park, names which indicate their owners—and the Burgh Records show how they were disposed of.

During the incumbency of Mr Hay's uncle, handsome communion cups, at present in use in the Parish Church, had been gifted—one by "John Govan, a native of Peebles, faithful Treasurer of Edinburgh," through the care of John Frank, Writer to the Royal Signet.—1684.[1] A second was the bequest of Alexander Williamson, the vigilant Provost of the Burgh, through James Williamson of Cardrona, his son and heir, 1684. A third was the gift of Mr John Hay, who styles himself "Rector of Peebles and Mener." Its date is also 1684. (This was the minister translated from Manor to Govan, and then called back to Peebles.) A fourth has no inscription, but was gifted by the Town Council in 1684. Provost Williamson's father, who also occupied for a long time the honourable position of Chief Magistrate, signed the Covenant in 1638. As is mentioned by Mr Renwick in the Burgh

[1] The Govans had been long in Nether Kidston, and were connected with the old family of the Govans of Cardrona, which in 1683 was sold by them to the Williamsons. The John Govan referred to left also "Posso's Bond," to be equally divided between the poor and the school of Peebles.

Records, "during a period embracing more than a quarter of a century he had frequently occupied the first place in the Council, and had also on many occasions acted as the town's representative in Parliament, Conventions, and General Assemblies; and, doubtless, exercised considerable influence in burgh affairs." He bought an acre of land at "Aikerfield," now Rosetta, and had house property in the town. He died in 1651. Mr Alexander Williamson was Sheriff Clerk in 1729; and the author has in his possession one of his books, entitled "Sermons by Mr Joseph Frood," Edinburgh, 1719, with Mr Williamson's signature on the fly leaf. He has also a burgess ticket written out, on vellum, as follows:—"Convened at Peebles the 16th day of July, 1759 years, James Halden, Provost of Peebles; John Govan and James Ballantyne, Bailies; [two words illegible] part of the Council of said Burgh; which day Mr Alexander Williamson, Officer of Excise at Peebles, is by the said Magistrates and Council Received and Admitted a Burgess and Guild Brother of the said Burgh of Peebles, with power to use, exercise the haill Privelages, freedoms, and Immunities thereof, who being present and accepting the samen, Gave his oath of fidelity thereanent as thereupon bears. Extracted from the Town Court Books of Peebles by me, Town Clerk of that Burgh sub'ing, and the common seal thereof whereunto appended. John M'Ewan, Clerk." He has likewise one dated Annan, 1739, to Alexander Williamson, Officer

of Excise, signed by J. Grahame, Clerk. Robert Williamson, his brother, married Jean Begbie, Phantassie, East Lothian; whose mother was Grace Maitland, youngest daughter of Mr Maitland, the proprietor of Eccles. Mr Robert Williamson's only son was Alexander Williamson, writer, Town Clerk of Peebles, and his third daughter, Elizabeth, married Mr Robertson, Commissary Clerk of Peebles.

In Mr Hay's time the Tolbooth, which had been removed from the Briggait, stood at the west end of the High Street, close beside the chapel and steeple, which were not removed till 1776. In that Tolbooth the Council met until the Town Hall, at the head of the School Brae, was ready for their reception in 1753. Mr Hay was once reproved by the authorities for pasturing his horse and cow in the churchyard, and ordered to have them taken to some other ground. The authorities were right. Mr Hay was wrong. At the time the churchyard was sadly neglected. The walls were broken down, and the whole appearance of the place was like the sluggard's garden. The people had not begun to entertain the idea that "God's Acre," instead of being a desolate waste, ought to be carefully attended to and beautified—that it should present a pleasant aspect, and not be entirely abandoned to nettles, thistles, and weeds.

Mr Hay was a witness to the Riding of the Commons which took place in 1727, when, according to orders issued by the Council, "the haill

burgesses and inhabitants, horse and foot, met to attend the Magistrates and Council on the first Monday of June in their best equipages, for riding the commonities of Eshiels, Glentress, and Hamilton. An immense gathering took place, the Provost and Magistrates on horseback in front, preceded by the town piper." The services of this official have long since been discontinued, but those of drummer are retained for public announcements.

There are still persons in Peebles who remember the well which stood right in front of what is now the Chambers Institution, but they may not be aware of the fact that it was built about 1729, in order to add to the supply of water hitherto received from pump wells. That additional supply was brought from Venlaw, whence it was taken from St Mungo's Well there. And some may also recollect the little reservoir on the hill with a wooden door, which was a mysterious object to youngsters from the burgh. The well was removed from the High Street when the improvements were made in 1847. There was one also at the east end of the High Street, built on the gable of Mr Williamson's house (where the Free Church is now), but it was taken away in the same year.

It must be borne in mind that the Parish Church, during the incumbency of Mr Hay, Mr Veitch, Mr Freithie, and their predecessors back to the Reformation, was the Cross Kirk—now a ruin, hemmed in by manufactories, surrounded by new streets

and workshops; but in these old days it stood a solitary, venerable, and picturesque building—not perhaps very ornamental in its style of architecture, yet substantial, imposing, and covering a very considerable space of ground. The cloisters had extended over a large area, and a portion of them was in existence during the period of which we write, and even down to the middle of the following century. The Red friars of the Cross Kirk had been well known during the reign of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland, and the road between St Andrew's Church and the Cross Kirk was used as the means of communication between the officials of the one and the other. Up and down that walk—where are now houses and streets, but which was then quiet, retired, beautiful, overshadowed by an avenue of fine trees, and bordered by the rich green fields belonging to the kirk—they used to pace up and down, either singly or in couples, reading their breviaries, or engaged in earnest converse. What a different spectacle that old path presents now! What would we not give for a glimpse of it as it was four or five hundred years ago!

After 1690, a part of the church was occupied as a school, in which Mr Hay, son of the Episcopal incumbent, taught till he was ejected by the Council in 1694; and even after the new Parish Church was built, in 1784, it was used for the same purpose.

It was probably in the steeple of the Cross Kirk

that a clock was fixed which belonged at one time to the Parish Church of Mid Calder. In his history of that parish, Mr Hardy Bertram M'Call, says—"There was a church clock on the east face of the bell tower, facing the street. In the Book of Deaconry it is recorded, 21st February, 1692, that this day Robert Ker, kirk officer, made his complaint to the session that for the space of twa yeir bygane he had gotten no acknowledgment of his pains and some chairges he had been at for the knock, upon which the session thought fit to give the said Robert this day's collection, amounting to £2 Scots; and again, in 1693 and 1695, Robert Ker is paid for his care of the knock. What became of the said knock is not known, but a report was formerly current in that parish that it was sent to Edinburgh for repair; but as the session and heritors objected to pay the cost, the clockmaker thought proper to reimburse himself by selling the article to the Magistrates of Peebles."

We learn from the Burgh Records that clocks were not so inexpensive in former days as at present, and that Peebles, as far back as 1462, stood in need of one; because in that year the individual who had not his dyke made by Martinmas was to be fined, and the money "taken to the knok." The divines of the day had charge of it, for the "burromalis" were assigned to Sir Thomas of Crawford's clerk, and to Sir Patrick of Stanhowe, for "keeping of the knok;" while oil for it forms a considerable item of expenditure in the accounts.

James Frank was warned in 1556 to remove from the keeping of the common-house and knok, because he had not given satisfaction. In 1664 the Council gave the duty of attending to it and the custody of their "common-hous" to Thomas Dikesoun, son of William Dikesoun of Winkston, who stood caution for his care and conduct. John Robene, besides being appointed jailor, was in 1632 made "ruler of the knok;" and in 1650 Alexander Williamsone succeeded to the honourable and responsible office, as also to the charge of the locks and keys ("the horologe doore lock and kie"), and hinging locks; one of which was in the hands of James Williamsone, treasurer. For more than a hundred years before the last-mentioned date it was ordered that the "knok" should be made to do as "in auld maner, usit and wont," and to "gar her stryke nychtlie" and to "ring coverfyre" (or curfew) "at 12 hours and sax hours usit and wont." It is curious to notice that in 1628 at ten o'clock nightly the great bell was to be rung, and whoever was found after that drinking or playing was to be dealt with. As Mr Renwick points out, the family of Frank for generations—with short intervals—had the oversight and management of the steeple and its appurtenances, which adjoined the Virgin Chapel at the west end of the High Street. A solemn ceremony was evidently observed at the election of such a custodier; for he had to take the oath of fidelity, and accept by the inventory

all the goods and chattels assigned to him as an officer. (It may be mentioned, in passing, that in December 1570 football was forbidden in the High Street under penalty of a fine and the destruction of the ball.)

The mention of St Gordian's Kirk in the preceding pages, and in connection with the Burnetts of Barns, recalls a question which has puzzled antiquarians. To whom was it dedicated? Who was St Gordian? The site of the old church is well known. It is away at the head of the secluded Manor valley, amid the silent hills, which are seldom trodden save by the foot of the shepherd—hills which once encircled the homes of a large population, but now keep guard over the scattered mounds that tell where these habitations stood. The ruins of the ancient sanctuary are distinctly recognised around a handsome cross which has been erected to identify the spot by Sir John Nasmyth, Bart., of Posso. And it may not be uninteresting to give the views of one entitled to be heard on the subject—the Rev. Mr MacVicar, minister of the parish of Manor. His theory is not the commonly received one—that a person of the name of Gordian lived amid the people who dwelt in that glen, won them over from Paganism by his simple life and earnest teaching of Christianity, went to Rome, and there suffered martyrdom in the days of Julian the Apostate, about 362 A.D. He believes that there is no support for such an opinion, and that from information he obtained it is contradicted by an extract from the Bolandists,

where it is asserted that the Gordian who received the honour of saintship from the Roman Catholic Church was not an ecclesiastic, and, indeed, not a Christian till a very brief time before his martyrdom. He was, indeed, a deputy of the Emperor Julian, and a persecutor of the Christians. It was while employed in their extermination that he was brought to learn what the new religion taught, at length became a convert, and received the martyr's crown. His confession and his death followed close on each other. Such a man could have had no connection with this remote corner of the Empire as a teacher. The Christian life of the Gordian of the Bolandists was too brief to make a lasting impression on the Church, or to give a name to an edifice hidden amid the hills of the far west.

There are, however, three other Gordians noted in Roman history—two of them prominent. Of the eldest it is said "he was an example of piety and virtue." Promoted to the Prætorship, he was eventually elected Consul, and took the government of Africa as Proconsul. After he attained his eightieth year, he was roused from a tranquil reign by the tyranny of the Maximini, and proclaimed Emperor by the rebellious troops of his province. He long declined to accept the imperial purple, but threats of immediate death forced his compliance. Maximinus marched against him. His son Gordian was killed in battle; and his father, to escape capture, committed suicide in 236 A.D. "He was

universally lamented," the historian adds, "by the army and people." There was a third Gordian—Marcus Antoninus Pius Gordian, grandson of the old man. When twelve years of age he was honoured with the title of Cæsar, proclaimed Emperor, when sixteen, amid universal approbation; set out from Rome to Syria to oppose the Persians; and drove them back in 244 A.D. During his advance into Persia, the army proclaimed Philippus Emperor, and Philippus caused Gordian to be assassinated in his tent. Of the second Gordian little is known, but of the elder and younger all recorded is to their honour. The fairness and equity of their administration, and the regularity with which the soldiers were paid, were recognised, and tended to avert for a time the decline of the Roman Empire. The younger Gordian was adored by all ranks while living, and worshipped when dead. The soldiers in the East erected monuments to his memory. His name was cherished. Why should the legions who were sent to Britain not venerate him also? They benefited by his justice and fairness. A large detachment remained for a long period at Lyne and an outpost was probably stationed at Cademuir. There were undoubtedly Christians in that Roman army —about 244 A.D. There was, we know, a whole legion of Christians in the army which occupied Germany in 200 A.D. Some of these might be stationed at Lyne, because in forty years Christianity had made great progress. Gordian was a universal

favourite. These Christians probably retired from their comrades in the large encampment, to worship in this comparatively quiet and secluded spot—not at a very great distance from the camp—and the humble structure they reared might receive the name of this popular young Emperor. It is not ascertained if he was a heathen; but, anyhow, he stopped the persecution of the Christians, his life was good, and his motives were pure. So, if he was a heathen—yet so far a favourer of their faith—there is no reason why they should not have called their little edifice after him. Such is the theory, and there is much to be urged in favour of it. Still, it must be confessed that the origin of the name is not absolutely free from doubt.

In connection with this subject, it may be mentioned that the Rev. Archibald Douglas, the second minister of Peebles after the Reformation, was also minister of Manor. Where was his church? Was it the ancient St Gordian's—renovated, enlarged, and made more substantial; yet with the old memories of early Christian times clustering around it? Was it a more recent building near the foot of the valley? Those who maintain the former view point to the use in the present church (erected in 1873-74 on the site of an older church) of the bell which bears the legend "In honore Sancti Gordiani MCCCCLXXVIII.," and also to the stone font of St Gordian's brought down to within a few hundred yards of the present building. But it is held, in opposition, that there was a chapel connected

with the Cross Kirk of Peebles, and bearing the name of "The Chapel of the Holy Cross," near the foot of the valley. And this is supported by the fact that in Barns Avenue a group of cottages still retains the title of "Crosshouses"—evidently derived from their proximity to the chapel. Immediately behind them is a field called "Kirk field," and near the S.E. corner a roundel planted with trees styled "Kirkhill." The Presbytery Records, moreover, attest that previous to the erection of the Church in 1698 (the church which was demolished in 1873), the heritors could not agree as to the selection of a new site. Those at the upper end wished it higher in the valley, and those at the lower end claimed that it ought to be near the church it was to replace. If St Gordian's was the church, there could be no reason for the proprietors up the Manor desiring it to be "higher," because that site was as "high" as possible—"higher" it could not be. But if it was to supersede the Chapel of the Holy Cross, the position of the "upper" heritors becomes reasonable and plain. The Presbytery were invited to settle the dispute. They failed, and the Synod appointed commissioners to act with the Presbytery. Again there was failure to bring about harmony. And so the Synod interposed, and ordered the church to be rebuilt, if not on the exact spot of the Chapel of the Holy Cross, at any rate as near to it as possible. Thus in 1698 the church was erected half a mile from the old chapel, the half mile being probably a sort of compromise. It continued, as we have said,

till 1873, when the present handsome structure was reared on the same site.[1]

[1] It must be added that there was a Rude Altar in the Parish Kirk of Manor, which, at the Reformation, had a yearly revenue of 45 shillings, and possibly there was a chaplaincy in connection with it. Chambers says, "It was in 1400 that there is a notification of the chaplaincy of the Holy Rood in the Kirk of St Gordian of Manor by 'John Burnet of that Ilk' which chaplaincy he enriches with the rents of some lands belonging to him in the Town of Peebles." In the Statistical Account of Manor in 1792, Mr Marshall states that "the church was removed about the middle of last century. The erection of 1698 must have been the second church erected after St Gordian's was disused. The manse has been on its present site, at any rate, since 1659, when the Town Council allowed Mr Alex. Spittall, minister at Manner, to cast divots on Cademure 'foranent his house.' In 1703 the kirkyard was abused and treated as a common road. The Session Records further mention that the old bell was put by the minister (Mr Mitchell), that in 1708 the 'Quire' window was broken, but repaired and glazed in 1709. It was in 1602 that, according to the Presbytery Records, the church was thoroughly mended, yet in 1693 'there was no church to preach in.'"

CHAPTER II.

On the death of Mr John Hay, the Earl of March presented Mr William Dalgleish to the Church and Parish of Peebles, in 1761. Mr Dalgleish was a native of Galloway, had been a student in the University of Edinburgh, and was licensed by the metropolitan Presbytery in 1760. Consequently, he had little ministerial experience before being settled in Peebles. He was a young man of twenty-eight, of good appearance, with an open, frank countenance and kindly manner, combined with considerable dignity. After twelve years residence in Peebles he married, in 1773, Miss Jean Gibson, who survived him for twelve years and died in Edinburgh in 1819.

When he entered on the charge the population of the parish was 1582. In it were only 28 houses with seven windows and upwards, for in those days the light of day was taxed. By the beginning of this century the number of inhabitants had increased to 2088, of whom 151 were employed in agriculture, and 336 in trades, weaving, and handicraft. There were 19 clocks and 2 gold and 19 silver watches in the parish.

The member for the district of burghs, in which Peebles was included, was John Ross of Balnagown, Ross-shire. He succeeded John Murray of Philiphaugh. Mr Ross had a property near Lanark, as well as his northern estate, which is still very extensive, and lies between Tain and Invergordon. He represented the Burghs for about seven years, and in 1806 Sir Charles Ross, his son, who was elected in the following year, was succeeded by William Maxwell of Carriden. John Dickson of Kilbucho was member for the County, and his successor was Adam Hay, Captain of the 6th Regiment of Foot.

The Presbytery which met to ordain Mr Dalgleish in the Cross Kirk were:—Revs. Stephen Oliver, Innerleithen (translated to Maxton in 1776); William Wallace, Drummelzier; Alexander Robertson, Eddleston (the second of the line of Robertsons); Thomas Gibson, Kirkurd; Thomas Findlater, West Linton (whose opposed settlement is referred to further on); Alexander Johnstone, Lyne (then in his seventy-fifth year, with twenty-seven years of life before him); William Welsh, Manor (afterwards translated to Drummelzier); David Dickson, D.D., Newlands (deposed two years after, reponed by the General Assembly, and finally deposed again in 1767; his son became General Dickson); John Baird, of Stobo (who died in 1795, at the age of eighty-six, and in the sixty-second year of his ministry); Alexander Adams, Traquair (he had been presented the previous year by George III.). Tweedsmuir was vacant, but Mr Muschat, a

licentiate of the Peebles Presbytery, who had been missionary at Strontian, and afterwards Presbyterian minister at Thornton, in England, was already presented by the Earl of March, and his admission took place on 21st October, 1761.

Although no one now living saw Mr Dalgleish, many in their youth may have heard of him from old people who remembered him well—with his cocked hat, knee breeches, silver buckles, powdered hair, and gold-headed cane. He was regarded with great respect, as on Sunday mornings he walked with slow and stately steps from the manse to the Cross Kirk, along the path between the high hedgerows; and when he appeared at the head of the High Street, or was seen coming down the Old Town, the "wives claivering at the close heads" suddenly stopped their animated conversations and swiftly disappeared. Yet no man had a kinder heart, or did more good in the town. For a short time he was rather unpopular, on account of the question of a grass glebe which he claimed. But the action against him was dismissed, and he was successful. William Chambers in his "Memoir of Robert Chambers," mentions an anecdote of their grandmother, Margaret Kerr, in connection with Dr Dalgleish after his marriage. "In presence of a number of neighbours, she (Mrs Chambers) thought fit to lecture him on that particularly delicate subject, his wife's dress. 'It was a sin and a shame to see sae muckle finery.' The minister did not deny the charge, but dexterously encountered her with the

Socratic method of argument: 'So, Margaret, you think that ornament is useless and sinful in a lady's dress?' 'Certainly, I do.' 'Then may I ask why you wear that ribbon around your cap? A piece of cord would surely do quite as well.' Disconcerted with this unforeseen turn of affairs, Margaret determinedly rejoined in an undertone, 'Ye'll no' ha'e lang tae speer sic a like question.' Next day her cap was bound with a piece of white tape; and never till the day of her death did she wear a ribbon or any morsel of ornament."

If, in imagination, we go back to these old days we can almost hear the "jowin' of the auld kirk bell," as it sounds, on a quiet morning, over the valley, up among the hills, across Eddleston Water and the Tweed, to summon the worshippers from afar. People pour out of the houses and from the closes of the High Street, Northgate, Old Town, and Briggait. Some of the principal burgesses, "men of light and leading," wear pigtails hanging over the collars of their blue coats, top boots, knee-breeches, buckles, vests of bright colours, frilled shirt fronts, and cuffs. Others are in coarser garments—men with flat, round bonnets; elderly women with squinny mutches, carrying their Bibles, with a sprig of southernwood or wild thyme laid out on a folded pocket handkerchief white as the driven snow. The country contingent arrive, some on foot, others on horseback, with their female folk, wives or daughters sitting on pillions behind them, unable to dismount

till the "loupin'-on stane" is reached; others again in strange, lumbering vehicles, which are left at the Cross Keys till the service is over. All wend their way across the high-arched Cuddy Bridge — which has disappeared — or across the "Tree Brig" at the end of the Briggait, or, by Biggies Knowe from the Old Town foot, or by the narrow lane from the head of the Old Town. The Provost and Magistrates in state proceed to their "loft"—recently repaired—and Mr Oman's and Mr Brown's scholars march two and two in solemn silence to their proper places, under the eagle eyes of their teacher. Dr Dalgleish—though he did not receive the degree till 1786, we shall call him so—was an excellent divine, and a popular preacher. Discourses were not so compact or brief then as they are now. The congregations were willing, even anxious to remain longer in church than congregations of the present. He was always well prepared, and, as the sermons in his published volumes show, dealt often with difficult subjects. His composition was easy and elegant, with much felicity of expression. Indeed, he was no ordinary man, and the people were well off in having him for their pastor. There was nothing, of course, sung but the Psalms. Paraphrases were a later innovation. The line was read out, and the old tunes rigidly adhered to.

There had been several attempts made by the General Assembly to introduce "Scripture songs," but these failed. In 1706 a collection by Mr Patrick

Simpson, minister of Renfrew, was recommended for private families, but nothing followed. In 1741 the Assembly instructed the Commission to consider an overture about turning some passages of the Old and New Testaments into metre, to be used in churches as well as households; and next year the Presbytery of Dundee and the Synod of Angus were requested to transmit to the Assembly's Committee certain paraphrases they had compiled. In 1744 a collection was actually laid before the Assembly, and was transmitted to the various Presbyteries for consideration. What report the Presbytery of Peebles made we are not aware. But in 1751 this collection was ordered to be largely circulated. In 1775 a Committee of Assembly was appointed, and their report was given in 1781. It mentioned that a certain number of Scriptural poems had been prepared; and while the Committee was reappointed to make alterations and corrections, the version so corrected was meantime to be used in churches. Thus were finally compiled the Paraphrases now used. So that it was not until the new Parish Church was built that there was any opportunity of introducing them. We cannot say if Dr Dalgleish did so; but, whether by him or Dr Lee, they met with determined opposition; and some worshippers emphatically closed their books and walked out the moment one of these "human hymns" was announced. For a long time amongst old people there was inveterate antipathy to their use in public worship.

It must be borne in mind that Peeblesshire was not a musical county in those days—at least some authorities tell us so; and probably this part of the the service would shock those whose fastidious tastes have been accustomed to instrumental music, anthems, and oratorios. Yet none but the most ignorant will condemn or sneer at the old mode of worship. Simple—severely simple—it was; but its simplicity did not imply insincerity or formalism. God was worshipped as reverently and as devoutly in these assemblies as in congregations which have all the modern requirements of an elaborate ritual. There were as good, pious, Christian men and women in those days as now.

Some people descending the vale of years may have heard from aged persons, with whom they conversed in the morning of life, a description of the interior appearance of the Cross Kirk. It was not large, imposing, or elegant; there was no adornment about it. The pulpit was opposite the entrance, and the pews were unstained and unpainted. The vaults of the Earl of Morton and the proprietors of Smithfield or Venlaw were passed by all who frequented the church.

After Dr Dalgleish had been settled a short time it was discovered that the steeple was in a dangerous condition. Having been duly inspected, its doom was pronounced, and the heritors caused it to be taken down and "the rubbish sold." Unfortunately, there was no antiquarian society at hand to investigate into the component parts of

From a Photograph by G. W. Wilson.

THE CROSS CHURCH.

the "rubbish," and to preserve anything that was characteristic of the building and associated with olden times. We cannot, therefore, tell what interesting relics may have been unceremoniously carted away, deposited no one knows where, and lost for ever. The figures of saints, which formerly occupied the niches, had, doubtless, been demolished long, long before; still, some carved work might have been preserved from the destruction. These were not, however, the days when much interest was exhibited in ancient things; and it only remains for us to mourn that so much in the burgh has been irrecoverably swept away.

Dr Dalgleish seems to have come to the conclusion that a new church was necessary. There was always patching up required for the Cross Kirk, and it never was comfortable and satisfactory. He must have had conversations on the subject with several of his heritors, with the members of the Presbytery, and the townspeople. The latter, at any rate, were in favour of his proposal; and the Presbytery consented to make a representation to the heritors. In compliance therewith, a meeting of the heritors was held to consider the subject. On a bright, sunny July forenoon, in 1777, the question was discussed in its initial stage. Dr James Hay of Haystoun was asked to preside. He had entered on possession of the property about 1762, but Kingsmeadows was not built till 1795. Mr Oman of the Grammar School, who was "vicar of Peebles," was appointed clerk to

the meeting. It is interesting to recall the names of those who were present. Mr James Tait, W.S., Edinburgh, appeared as "doer," or factor, for the Earl of March, Dr Hay, Burnett of Barns, Sir James Naesmyth, Murray of Cringletie, Williamson of Cardrona, Honourable George Murray of Blackbarony, Sheriff Stevenson, Smithfield, Sir John Elliot of Chapelhill, Smith of Templeton, Provost Ker, Captain Kennedy of Kailzie. The result of the deliberations was that Mr Brown, architect, Edinburgh, with "skilful tradesmen" from the city, should be asked to inspect and report on the state of the Cross Kirk, and to give an idea of the cost of repairs. In 1778 it was reported so much money would be required to put it into a proper condition that it would be better for the heritors to build a new church. For this alternative, however, they were not quite prepared. The report was held to be vague, and recommitted. At the same time Provost Ker pointed out that the Cross Kirk was not conveniently situated, and that aged and infirm persons could not walk so far out of town. Moreover, he said, he knew a site which might be got for a new edifice. The Provost had great weight in Peebles. He was much respected both in the town and county, his family had been long connected with the burgh, and he was a worthy spokesman on behalf of the inhabitants. Another meeting was to be held, when the report of Mr Brown would be reconsidered, and the full plan of Provost Ker

laid before the heritors. Mr Brown could give no clearer explanation than he had done; and the Provost's proposal was, therefore, the only one before them. The decision was delayed; and, meantime, Provost Ker was succeeded by Provost Reid. But there was nothing lost in the transference of power. Provost Reid was an able and resolute man—a man in many ways most remarkable. He was a physician and surgeon, having a very wide practice, a friend of the celebrated Dr Cullen, and called into consultation by practitioners over a wide area. Some of his sayings and prescriptions still survive, and traditions exist of delicate and difficult operations he performed with skill in the most disadvantageous circumstances. He had bought Queensberry House, now the Chambers Institution, where he lived till his death. Mr Ker was present at the next meeting of heritors, and was powerfully supported by Provost Reid. So at last it came about that a new church was decreed on ground given by the Town Council at the west end of the High Street, then known as the Castle Hill of Peebles. The plans were adjusted by Mr Brown, and all went well till the erection was completed, when it was found that the spire was stunted and inelegant. Mr Brown was communicated with, and declared that his plans had been shamefully departed from. It is impossible to say whether this was a valid excuse or not. Though the distance between Edinburgh and Peebles was considerable, and there

was no proper public conveyance, he might have gone out and watched the progress of this most conspicuous portion of the building. Before the interior was completed some alterations were made in order to give additional accommodation to the poor, and a proper access to Dr Hay's loft. There was also some dispute occasioned by a question about the Queensberry pew, one not having been assigned to His Grace, and, after considerable discussion, some compromise was effected. The heritors appointed a committee of tradesmen to see that the work was properly executed. It consisted of Mr John Sanderson, mason in Innerleithen; William Paterson, mason in Peebles; Laurence Goodall, wright in Peebles; William Elder, wright in Traquair; David Russell and Walter Steel, slaters in Peebles. They reported favourably, and the church was duly opened by Dr Dalgleish in 1784. Mr Alexander was then Provost.

The same year Dr Reid was much annoyed because the piece of ground at Cabbage Hall, on Tweed Green, which he had used as a dunghill, was often overflowed by the river; and he proposed to the Council to secure eight or nine yards parallel to his garden wall, and rent it for a certain payment. Provost Alexander was agreeable, and Mr Oman was sent to measure the part. Cabbage Hall has lost its ancient name, but it was always known by it till within recent years. Close past the cottage the north wall of Peebles ran to meet the West Port.

If the reader would form an idea of what Peebles was like near the close of the century he must obliterate all streets save the High Street, Northgate, Briggate, Biggies Knowe, and Old Town. He must imagine green fields and pleasant gardens where are now manufactories, works of various kinds, villas, and rows of houses. He must annihilate the North British and Caledonian Railway Stations with all their sheds and pertinents; and see, where the former is built, only pasture lands and old fashioned hedgerows, nurseries, and gardens: where the latter is erected on the road from Tweed Bridge, green fields and Dukehaugh with its surrounding wall and overshadowing trees. He must denude King's Muir of its elegant habitations, and re-clothe it with abundance of trees. He must see Venlaw as it was, destitute of wood, studded with whin bushes, on which clothes were dried — without villas, and devoid of the colossal palace called "The Hydropathic." Of course there were plantations on the east side of the hill, where was the quarry; and on the west side, whereon is Smithfield: but there were no trees between. As he walks up the High Street from the Kerfield Road he must replace the pavement on the side-paths with causeway; he must note the various outshots, outside stairs, closes, arched pends; with here and there a thatched cottage, side by side with two-storeyed houses boasting slated roofs. He must observe the public wells, at which "stoups"

and pitchers are regularly filled, each well being an agreeable rendezvous for female gossips; the cistern at the Eastgate, the massive well opposite Dr Reid's (Queensberry House), and another about the Cunzie Neuk. He must regard with respect the "Long Close" with its old associations; the close on the opposite side (leading to the back of the former U.P. Manse), where dwelt William Lowes, descendant of an old Peebles family; and the venerable Cross, which stood erect in the centre of the street at the opening of the Northgate. He must turn aside to the long established Cross Keys, with the narrow entrance into its broad court, and recall the memory of Miss Ritchie (original of Meg Dods), who at the beginning of the century was at the height of her fame; and then survey the gardens stretching from the houses on the west side of the Northgate to the banks of the Cuddy. He must summon out of the misty past the plain ordinary shops, contracted in space, and possessed of half-doors—doors divided into upper and lower halves; the upper open, the lower closed; and see the shopkeepers on a bright, warm, summer day leaning with folded arms on the under portion, calmly conversing with an occasional passer-by. The whole picture is one of undisturbed repose. Business did not press. People did not bustle about. There was no hurry. Not even a stage-coach broke the monotony. Yet Peebleans were wonderfully happy in these "former days." Few newspapers came to the town, except to one

or two of the principal inhabitants, and no daily telegraphic messages troubled them. They were contented to wait for news till it came to them in due course. There were occasional outbursts of excitement, as during the period of the meal mobs, already alluded to; and Corporations, such as those of the bakers and the tailors, had sometimes grievances for which they desired redress. To their petitions to the Council reference has been already made. But the shopkeeper could leave his place of business whenever he pleased in order to take a "daunder." His wife remained behind to attend to the wants of a stray customer. There was no gas to light either shop or dwelling when the shades of evening fell. On the counters of the former, a small "dip" served to illuminate the scene; and on the table of the latter one or two candles of a more expensive kind shed a brilliant lustre. In the best houses the rooms were "wee," if numerous, and the ceilings were low. Drawing-rooms were almost unknown; "the parlour" was the chief sitting room, although in some cases there was a "dining-room." In humble homes, box-beds were common, while into others, stately, ponderous, and solemn four-posters with curtains were introduced. Seasonable hours were kept by the great majority of the people, on the principle that "early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Two years after the new church was built the minister received the degree of D.D. from the University of Edinburgh. This was certainly a much

higher honour last century than it has now become. Dr Dalgleish had already published (in 1776) "The True Sonship of Christ Investigated." There was some idea that he was imbued with Arian notions, and a pamphlet refuting his views was published by William Scot, a ploughman. It was entitled, "A few arguments deduced from Scripture, by way of sermon against some Arian doctrine and anti-Scriptural notions of the Deity, or divine immensity of God, in a book authorised and published by John Baxter, against a celebrated writer on the Supreme Deity of the second person of the Godhead as the Lord Jehovah, and on His Sonship as God's Immanuel, the Messiah or Saviour, God incarnate, God in our nature. 1778." This Mr Scot, it appears, though only a ploughman, was fond of religious controversy, and in order to get his pamphlet printed had to sell his cow. His son, David Scot, M.D., who was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, 1795, supported himself by teaching, and took his degree while "coaching" students in Hebrew, of which he had a most wonderful knowledge. In fact, as a Hebrew scholar he had few equals. Persian and Hindustanee were both familiar to him. In 1814 he was presented to Corstorphine, and in 1833 was chosen Professor of Hebrew in St Mary's College, St Andrews, a chair, which, however, he only held for a year; for he died in 1834.

In 1777 Dr Dalgleish published "The Self-Existence and Supreme Deity of Christ De-

fended;" two single sermons in 1793; Religion, its importance, &c.; in 1801 Addresses and Prayers; and four volumes of sermons on the chief doctrines and duties of the Christian religion, 1799-1807. The last volume appeared shortly before his death. He was for a lengthened period chaplain to the Peeblesshire Volunteers.

Dr Dalgleish's Statistical Account, as has been remarked, is not very satisfactory. There are many things omitted which would have afforded great interest. He was an eminent divine, but not a profound antiquarian. He believed that *Peebles* was derived from pebbles, "with which the soil abounds, particularly where the town was first built." Whether "shieling" is the proper interpretation it is difficult to say, but certainly the name was not obtained from "pebbles." He mentions that the average rainfall was twenty-five inches annually; that improvements in agriculture have made rapid progress within the last few years; that 1500 acres are already enclosed; that the lands "nigh the town" are let at from 40s to 50s per acre; that in these twenty years the rental of the parish has become double, and in 110 years septuple, for in 1681 the valuation was £5036 Scots. He adds that the present rental is £3000 sterling, paid to sixteen heritors, of whom two only, and the burgesses, who are many of them proprietors of land, reside in the parish. "Potatoes are nowhere raised in greater excellence and increase than in Peebles." The inhabitants of the Old Town numbered 350, of the

New 1130, and of the Landward 440—in all 1920. Of these 61 were Seceders or Cameronians, and there was one Secession minister. This was Mr Leckie, of the "Gytes," as it was long called. The average marriages in a year were 12, births 56, burials 52. "Lately there were six men living at the same time, within fifty yards of one another, in the Old Town of Peebles, whose ages together amounted to 518 years, and several of whom died 100 years old." These men, of course, could go back not only to the time of Mr Veitch, minister, but to that of the first Mr John Hay. The character Dr Dalgleish gave of the people is good: "they are regular in their attendance on the institutions of religion, sober, peaceable, and virtuous; so that no native of Peebles has either been banished or suffered capital punishment." The Doctor, however, was soon to witness the meal mobs, which showed that Peebles could be roused from its quiet and decorous state. He mentions that the manse was built in 1770; after he had been nine years minister. But it was built on the same spot where the "Personage" had stood from time immemorial. "At the schools no fewer than 260 children are educated, many of them from different parts of the kingdom, and they bring into the town for boarding and clothing about £1000 sterling." "Within late years fifty houses have been built or repaired; woollen, linen, and cotton weaving are making greater exertions; and larger houses are built for them. Dr James Hay has built a lint mill for the benefit of the country. Mr William Ker of

Kerfield has erected one of the completest breweries and distilleries, and made a new and useful improvement in the art of brewing. . . By the great increase of trade and opulence, the price of labour of all kinds has increased one-third part within these twenty years. Men servants have £6 or £7, and maid servants £3 sterling of yearly wages, besides their victuals. Common labourers have 1s a day, without victuals, and masons and carpenters 1s 6d. All classes are better lodged, better clothed and fed, than in former times." What would the worthy Doctor say now if he came back to Peebles? How would his "trade and opulence" and luxury be now considered? For some reason or other, he calls St Andrew's Church, St Mary's, which was, he says, rebuilt in the 11th century, and to the chaplain of which King David granted the corn and waulk mills of Innerleithen. Whence could he have derived the name, which is certainly a misnomer? It seems to have been always called St Andrew's. The description, however, he gives of the Cross Kirk is interesting. There can be no doubt that in his day the site of the Hospital of St Leonard's was marked near Eshiels, in the field called "Chapel Yards," where now or lately were some fine old large trees. He says it was for "infirm and indigent persons." He places also the spot of the terrible gallows tree on the south-east of Peebles, and on the other side of the river.

These extracts have been reproduced because they show Peebles in Dr Dalgleish's day, and also

because the old Statistical Account is rare, and so not easily accessible.

Among the characters met with about the close of the 18th century or the beginning of the 19th were one or two who deserve special notice. There was Robert Brown, or "Beni Minori," as he was called, who carried about a "raree show." William Chambers gives a good description of this man in the "Memoirs" of his brother. He was born, he says, in London in 1737. In his early life he was a post-boy, then a sailor, afterwards a prisoner in a French prison, next an adventurer in the West Indies, and finally a showman in England and Scotland. When he came to Peebles he of course attracted crowds both of juveniles and seniors; and his advent at the fairs was always looked forward to with interest. He died in the Edinburgh Charity Workhouse in 1840 at the age of 103. There was "Daft Jock Grey," spoken of in Dr Russell's *Reminiscences of Yarrow*. There was Andrew Gemmel, the original of Edie Ochiltree. He was distinguished by his blue gown, badge, staff, and the meal pock he carried in his hand in which to receive the offerings of the charitable. When a recruiting company of soldiers happened to be in the town during his visit, he would hold up his pock in the sight of the strapping young men tempted to listen to the persuasive sergeant who, in splendid uniform, harangued them in glowing language pourtraying the glories of a campaign, and cry out, "Aye, aye, lads, here's the end o't." Robert Chambers tells

how Mrs Gibson, the "guidwife of Newby," learned draughts or "the dam-brod" from him; and "somewhat to his disgust the pupil became in time equal to the master. A visitor one day backed her against Andrew for a guinea, which the old man did not scruple to take, and which he could easily have paid if unsuccessful, as he carried a good deal of money about his person. When it appeared, however, that she was about to win the game, Andrew lost his temper, or affected to do so, and hastily snatching up the board, threw the 'men' into the ashpit." He was always a welcome visitor at the farm-houses, for he and his brethren of the trade carried the news. Newspapers, as we have already said, were rare; and the mendicant was almost the only bearer of tidings, and disseminator of events occurring in the outer world.

Another individual of totally different character has also been celebrated by Sir Walter Scott. This was "Bow'd Davie of the Wudhus," who appears in *The Black Dwarf* as "Elshender the Recluse." He was born at Easter Happrew in 1741, the son of one William Ritchie, a labourer. He was deformed and sadly misshapen from his birth. He grew to be a man of great physical strength, but his deformities prevented his engaging in regular hard daily work, although he was employed for some time at Lyne's Mill in easy jobs about the farm. Professor Veitch, in an article in *Blackwood's Magazine*, September 1890, gives a sketch of this strange being, and mentions, what is not generally

known, that he was apprenticed to a brushmaker in Edinburgh. But the ridicule and jeers which his appearance evoked from the thoughtless and unfeeling led him to abandon Edinburgh, and seek refuge in the quiet Vale of Manor, where he received parochial relief as far back as 1762. This curious figure might be seen occasionally coming down the road from Manor, crossing Tweed Bridge, and passing rapidly along the High Street—"the observed of all observers"—followed and hooted by a band of boys, who kept well out of the reach of his long heavy stick, for his temper was fierce and his arm was powerful. His head was very large, his hair shaggy, his feet twisted, his countenance coarse and stern, his legs very short, and his body massive and ponderous. He wore no shoes, and his toes were exposed to view. Mr Craig, surgeon, Peebles, gives an account of him in the *Horæ Subsecivæ*. It was when Mr Scott and his brother the captain, along with Mr Adam Ferguson, were preparing to set off on a tour to the Lakes, that they rested at Hallyards, then tenanted by Dr Adam Ferguson, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. One evening the old Professor and Mr Walter Scott paid a visit to "Bow'd Davie's" cottage, when the memorable interview took place which has been frequently referred to by writers —that interview in the course of which the "Dwarf double-locked his door, and, coming up to the stranger, seized him by the wrist with

one of his iron hands, and said, 'Man, ha'e ye ony poo'er?' By this he meant magical power, to which he himself had some vague pretensions, or which, at least, he had studied and reflected upon till it had become with him a kind of monomania. Scott disavowed the possession of any such gift, evidently to the disappointment of the enquirer; who then turned round and gave a signal to a huge black cat, hitherto unobserved, which immediately jumped up to a shelf, where it perched itself, and seemed to the excited senses of the visitors as if it had really been the familiar spirit of the mansion. 'He has poo'er,' said the Dwarf in a voice which made the flesh of his hearers thrill; and Scott in particular looked as if he conceived himself to have actually got into the den of one of those magicians with whom his studies had rendered him familiar. 'Ay, *he* has poo'er,' repeated the recluse, and then going to his usual seat, he sat for some minutes grinning horribly, as if enjoying the impression he had made, while not a word escaped from any of the party. Dr Ferguson at length plucked up his spirits, and called to David to open the door, as they must now be going. The Dwarf slowly obeyed, and when they had got out Mr Ferguson observed that his friend was as pale as ashes, while his person was agitated in every limb." Little did the Dwarf imagine that the "great magician" was actually in his house, and that he himself was to be immortalised in the pages of a novel to be circulated wherever the English language is known. While

"Bow'd Davie" received an allowance from the kirk session he was a constant recipient of meal and provisions from farmers and others in the parish. No one cared to make an enemy of this mysterious being. His sister lived in a small cottage adjoining his own at Woodhouse, which was built for him by Sir James Naesmyth. He was an extensive reader of poetry, such as Shenstone's Pastorals, Allan Ramsay, Paradise Lost; but, according to Professor Veitch, he hated Burns. He cultivated his garden with great assiduity, and was fond of showing it off. On one occasion a party, amongst whom were some ladies, was being taken round to see the flowers and vegetables, when, unfortunately, a fly got into the mouth of one of the visitors, which she naturally strove to eject. Davie, not knowing the reason of her action, imagined that she spat out of contempt for him. His wrath was immediately roused to a high pitch. He would listen to no explanation or apology, but ordered the whole party to leave the premises instanter. When he was at Peebles one day to get his fortnightly shave, it is related that the barber played a trick on him, and sent him away after shaving only one side of his face. The discrepancy between the two cheeks was soon apparent to his tormenters, who waited for him in the street, and were not slow to give him information of the ridiculous spectacle he presented. As soon as he comprehended the cause of the derisive shouts that greeted him he rushed back

THE BLACK DWARF'S COTTAGE.

in a towering passion to wreak his vengeance on the base deceiver, who would certainly have been killed had he not escaped by a back door or window. Veitch says—"I do not suppose that David of Manor was well disposed to the world in general, and considering his original deformity—the idea of which haunted him like a phantom—and the jeering and insult he had experienced on account of it, a certain bitter and misanthropical turn of mind was not unlikely to result. But from all I can learn of him, it seems to me that this and the other defects mentioned have been considerably exaggerated. Miss Ballantyne of Woodhouse, who knew him well, and was one of his best friends, said that he was not ill-tempered, but, on the contrary, kind, especially to children." He died in December, 1811, and was buried in Manor churchyard, though it had been his desire to be laid on the top of Woodhill, with a rowan tree above his grave—at any rate, "no to be buried among the common trash."

Powdered hair was common among the richer people, both in town and country, even in the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was a somewhat expensive, as well as a meaningless luxury; but it gave constant employment to the hairdresser. Some persons paid about 14s in the half-year for having their hair attended to, and the barber waited on them at their own houses. There is an exquisite picture of the occupation of the barber in the *Antiquary*, where Monkbarns' wig is care-

fully attended to. In 1712 the Town Council "ordaines ane officer to discharge John Law to work in wig-making here," because he was in opposition to Samuel Thomson, who had received promise of municipal patronage "for the space of three years."

The independence of the United States had been achieved and declared in 1783, and ten years afterwards the French Revolution had culminated in the death of the unfortunate monarch. It is well known that the wild opinions which then floated about found favour in the quiet burgh town, and that certain politicians embraced them as, in their belief, favourable to what they styled "liberty." There were those persons who, casting off religion altogether, burned the Bible; and it is said that several on a Communion Sabbath sacrificed a calf in a sequestered spot about Venlaw. But these people formed a small minority, and were regarded with horror by the rest of the community. And it was currently reported that not one of them died a natural death. Whether this is true or not cannot now be positively affirmed.

Nelson was achieving honour by the victories of the British fleet. He broke the naval power of Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile in 1799. Arthur Wellesley was also rising into fame. In the same year Thomas Chalmers was born; and Walter Scott was attending the High School of Edinburgh. Burns had been in Edinburgh, and paid a visit to the Beild and Innerleithen. In 1792

there had evidently been some agitation in Peebles about the slave trade, and the Town Council made its wishes known to Mr Grieve, the Member of Parliament for the Burghs. He appears to have acted in accordance with his own views and those of his constituents, by voting for the abolition of the traffic in slaves.

After Dr Dalgleish had been in the new church for eight or nine years, great complaints were made about the ventilation, which was very imperfect. In warm weather the atmosphere was close and unhealthy. The Doctor suffered from it as much as his hearers, and he approached the Council with a simple remedy, which was—to have in the middle window of the west gable the three uppermost panes "made to let down." He pled for something to be done as a matter of plain justice and humanity.

It was on the afternoon of Sunday the 8th of March 1788 that news reached Peebles that old Mr Johnstone, the minister of Lyne, had suddenly passed away at the ripe age of 102. It appeared that he was rising from bed to prepare for conducting service that day, when he fainted, and gently breathed his last. He had been for more than fifty years a familiar figure to the people of the burgh, where he was frequently seen in his quaint attire, which recalled a fashion becoming obsolete; and he had occasionally preached in the Cross Kirk—perhaps also in the new Parish Church, though this is doubtful, as he was ninety-eight years of age when

it was opened. He died the father of the Church of Scotland. Mr Johnstone was born at Falkirk in July 1686, two years before the Revolution Settlement. He was a student in Glasgow University when Glasgow was a very small and thinly-populated town, was licensed by Stirling Presbytery in May 1720, and presented to Lyne and Meggat by the Earl of March in 1728, to which united parishes he had been called the previous year. During sixty years, therefore, he was minister of that charge, regularly and faithfully fulfilling his duties; for it is remarkable that he enjoyed excellent health all through his long life—never having, except on one occasion, made use of medicine. He was deputed by the Presbytery in 1730 to serve the edict at West Linton for the ordination of Mr Thomas Findlater, son of the minister of Hamilton; and on that occasion was set upon by an excited mob, principally of women who had conceived some antipathy to the presentee, and opposed his settlement. The documents necessary for the service of the edict were wrested from him, while what was considered unnecessary were politely returned to him. He remained all night with a friend in the parish, and next day in going to the church, it is related "he was stopt and carried to the fields by a number of women, who declared they intended carrying him to Lyne on foot, and kept him for a considerable time, causing his horse to be brought; and he being on horseback, the women *de novo* stopt him, requiring all the papers relative to the edict (which in the

meantime had been read and affixed to the church door by the laird of Spittlehaugh), whereupon he delivered the copy returned; and they, not being able to read it, in order to be sure that it was the edict, desired him to read it for them, which he did publicly from horseback, and then delivered it back at their demand." The female objectors thus outwitted themselves. The military were in readiness to quell any disturbance at the ordination, and several of these somewhat illiterate but zealous objectors to Mr Findlater were taken as prisoners to Edinburgh. In the Statistical Account of the parish, his successor tells that Mr Johnstone, "regarding the manners and customs to which he had been so long habituated as a model for succeeding ages, in the decline of life considered any deviation from them a corruption." The population of Lyne in his day was not much above 70, and of Meggat about 80. Baptisms, marriages, and funerals could not therefore be frequent. Whether it was the rough usage he had received from the fair sex at Linton, or whether he had been "crossed in love" in his younger days, we do not know, but he remained a bachelor to the last. It is said his marriage ceremony was somewhat gloomy and depressing. He was not required to use it often, but the bride and bridegroom must have been very courageous who did not hesitate to enter the bonds of matrimony. The beginning was on this wise:—"My freends, marriage is a curse to many, a blessing to a few, a lottery to all. Wull ye ventur?" In his day the church

of Lyne was in a dilapidated state, but at the beginning of Mr Handyside's incumbency it, along with the manse, was thoroughly repaired, and the latter enlarged. The church was older than the Cross Kirk, for in 1100 it was a chapelry dependent on Stobo. In 1320 it was served by a rector in the Deanery of Peebles. In 1504 Sir Alexander Romanes claimed the office. In 1571 Mr Patrick Grintoun was the reader; but as he could not dispense the Sacraments, Mr Thomas Cranstoun, minister of Peebles, did so for Lyne, as well as for the whole county. The church was in existence long before Mr Grintoun's day as a Roman Catholic place of worship; and after him, Mr Gilbert Hay, Mr John Ker, Mr Hew Ker, Mr Robert Brown, Mr John Horsburgh, Mr Samuel Mitchelson, and Mr Gilbert Hutchison (translated to Innerleithen in 1727) were Mr Johnstone's predecessors. The building was renovated in some manner in 1603, but forty years afterwards the Presbytery proceeded against Lord Yester to compel him to put it in a proper state, because public worship had been suspended for a considerable period owing to its ruinous condition. In 1644 his lordship placed in it the oaken pew and pulpit—now dark with age—the former bearing the monograms in gilt letters of John Hay of Yester and his wife "L. J., M. H., L. Y." The wood was brought from Holland. The church is very small, possesses a fine old Gothic window, and has recently undergone great improvements, by the liberality of the Earl of Wemyss. An old baptismal font—relic of

other times—has been discovered, and is now placed beside the dark oak pulpit on the platform; and several other links with the past have also been disinterred. The parishioners regretted the loss of Mr Johnstone, a worthy, excellent, kindly old man, shrewd in his observations, and active in his habits —the beau-ideal of simplicity. He was only six years younger than Mr John Hay, of Peebles, whom he survived twelve years. His memory embraced all those events which Mr Hay could recollect.

At the close of the century the price of grain was very high, and frequent riots occurred in various parts of the country in consequence of the widespread destitution. In Peebles, "meal mobs" were not uncommon then and at a later date. One valiant Amazon, "May Ingram," whose name has descended to posterity, made herself conspicuous on these occasions.

The Guildry in 1796 deemed it right to let the Council understand that its members were scandalised by the disgraceful scenes created by "May" and her followers, and that they would use their authority to prevent all over whom they had any influence joining the ranks of the rioters. May was the wife of John Donald, weaver; but, of course, went by her maiden name, according to the fashion of the times. She once lived up an outside stair in the High Street, opposite the Tontine, but flitted to the Long Close at the East Gate. During the dearth, meal, as has been said, was a "scarce and expensive article." It was alleged

that some of the farmers retained large supplies, to sell in the "dearest market." So May came forward as the champion of the poor. She appeared one day in the High Street with a girdle in the left hand and a porridge stick in the right, and by loud and not very refined exhortations gathered a mob, at the head of which she marched to Chapelhill, where, however, nothing was to be found; next to Edston, which was searched in vain also, till an incident occurred that crowned her efforts with success. A servant maid had compassion on two hungry-looking boys, to whom she gave bread and milk. As they were coming out, one of the party, John Salton, pushed open a door to see what was inside. A large "ark" or meal chest was revealed, the crowd was at once summoned, and the contents distributed. Sacks were filled with meal, the horse was unyoked from the harrows in a field where it was working, and the "booty" was brought to Peebles, where it was offered to the Sheriff at 3s 9d a peck; the farmer wanted, it seems, 4s. The Sheriff would not give him the sum, and was threatened with prosecution by the farmer (Mr Somerville), who vented his displeasure in maledictions on the people of Peebles. The sacks, it is said, lay and rotted in the meal market. In her old age, May wore a white "mutch" with black edges. Her wrath was always deprecated, because her tongue was sharp, her arms were strong, and she was not easily pacified when the spirit was roused within her.

The chief bakers in the town were John Kennedy, Alexander Horsburgh, and John Turnbull. The first was celebrated for his pies. The last belonged to a very old family, which had carried on the business for many generations. The name appears in the Burgh Records at an early date, and the stone with the carved emblems may still be seen above the entrance to the house, with the date 1717, the initials W.T., and the inscription—"The Lord provides a rich inheritance." The Turnbulls' house is mentioned in a conveyance in 1644 by the town to Thomas Nasmyth, son of James Nasmyth of Posso, of a "tenement of barren land, with the garden and barnestead, with the pertinents lying on the north side of the King's highway between the lands of John Turnbull, baker, &c." In the Extracts from the Records (p. 241) by Mr Renwick, there are the following entries:—1643, Aug. 21.—"John Trumble, present, is ordanit to mak the ait breid, and quheit breid, and loaves roundheidit, and of sufficient stuff and wecht." Oct. 30.—"Anent the complaint gevin in be Jean Bullo, aganes John Trumble, baxter, refuising to baik her breid, and the regrait of uther inhabitants upon him, the Counsell findis the said John lyable to serve the haill town, and haill inhabitants theirof, at all occasions quhatsumevir, for their reasonabill payment and dewtie; and therefore ordained the said John to baik all the said breid, baith quheit breid and ait breid, at all occasiones, as he wilbe answerable to the contrar,

under the pane of tinsell off his fredome, wairding of his persone, and payment of tuentie pundis *toties quoties* he refussis; and this to be done immediately after the date hereof." March 6, 1645.—"The Counsell has ratifeit the former act upone John Trumble anent the baiking of ait breid and quheit breid, ordaining the quantitie and qualitie of the samyn to be conforme to the table. And quhat flour or meill to be baikin be him to gentilmen, burgessis, and otheris, to be conform to the pryces set doun, or to be set doun be the Counsell, under the pane of tuentie pundis for ilk failye." The family of Turnbull was always highly respected, and the last of the race in Peebles, having given up the trade of his ancestors, was at one time Provost, and was made Collector of Stamps and Taxes. There are few families connected with the burgh which can go further back in a direct line.

There was an incorporation of master tailors, and at the end of the century Alexander Ker was "Boxmaster," an office instituted in 1680 at the request of "Thomas Hope, Andrew Gillies, William Scott, and others, tailyours, and burgessis of Peebles." They appeared to have charged apprentice fees under the sanction of the Council. Mr Ker's descendants still carry on the same business. The father of the present Mr Ker died suddenly in the polling booth at the election of 1886. The craft of shoemaker is also very ancient. There was in 1628 a shoe market to be held "everie mercat day, to begin at 11 befoir none at the ringing of the

chapel bell," and in 1674 the "cordiners" were ordained to take no more "for single soled work bot eight pennies, and twelve pennies for double soled work." The shoe market was in 1676 to be held "betwixt the Croce and the eist port, upon the south syd of the street."

In 1796, the Duke of Queensberry presented the Rev. Joseph Johnstone to the Church and Parish of Innerleithen, and Mr Walker of Traquair called a *pro re nata* meeting to expedite the settlement. Mr Johnstone's predecessor had got the heritors to build a new church in 1786, which was erected in the fashion of the period—viz., four walls, a roof, a gallery all round, except at the wall where the pulpit was placed between two long windows, and it had the usual square pews. Mr Johnstone's history was remarkable, and is referred to later on. The Presbytery had been somewhat changed since we read of it at Dr Dalgleish's ordination. He was still minister of Peebles, but Mr Marshall (one of the founders of the Peeblesshire Society) had become minister of Manor, Mr Forrester of West Linton, Mr Findlater of Newlands, Mr Ker of Stobo, Mr Handyside of Lyne, Mr Anderson of Kirkurd, Mr Gardiner of Tweedsmuir, and Mr Walker of Traquair. The only other ministers who survived, besides Dr Dalgleish, were Dr Patrick Robertson, of Eddlestone, and Mr Welsh, of Drummelzier.

In 1797, the "Gytes Meeting House," as it was long called, was erected. Like nearly all ecclesi-

astical structures of the period, it was in a style of most severe simplicity. It was situated at the foot of the Vennel. The first minister was Mr Leckie, who soon gathered a respectable congregation. He was a popular preacher. A manse was built for him next to Mr Sloane's house, on the slope overlooking Tweed Green. He married and had a large family, and his stipend being very small, it required the most rigid economy to provide for their wants. At his lamented death his sons found many friends, and all of them rose to high and lucrative positions. William Leckie—so often to be mentioned in the history of the Peeblesshire Society—was for many years in the Commercial Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh; Charles Leckie was physician to Lord Canning; the others also were equally successful.

In 1793, besides Mr Oman's and Mr Brown's public schools, there were private seminaries of instruction. Miss Marion Watson, and apparently also a Miss Grant, taught girls' schools. Although they were adventure schools, yet somehow or other they were recognised by the authorities. Kirsty Cranstoun's school was also well attended. Respect was paid to deportment and the more ornamental parts of education. Mr James Turnbull came to Peebles to teach dancing. Where his classes were at first held we cannot say, but he soon became dissatisfied with the accommodation, because it was disagreeable to the parents of the children, to the children themselves, and last, but not least, to him-

self. He was, therefore, granted the ball-room for 5s a month. Was this a room in the Town House, or was it the old ball-room in which county and other balls were wont to be held, and which originally stood opposite to the old British Linen Bank in the Northgate? Mr Turnbull must have been an enterprising man, and it is to be hoped that he was able to teach the rising generation of the day the use of "the light fantastic toe" in an elegant and graceful manner. He was followed by Mr James Harper, and about 1827 by Mr M'Glashan, whose son, Mr Alexander M'Glashan, came regularly for at least forty years, and conducted his classes in the Town Hall, forenoon and evening. Not a few of those who may read these pages will recall with a strange pleasure their dancing-school days—"now in the dim and distant past"—and the annual ball, by which the season was closed, always held in the large room of the Tontine Hotel. That ball was regarded as a "great occasion," when the pupils—boys and girls—in their best attire, went through the various dances in presence of a large circle of parents and friends, and when "minuets," "Jack-a-tar," the "sword dance," and the "Highland fling," were received with acclamation. Names recur of many youthful heroes and heroines of those days whose agile exploits were witnessed by their juniors with admiration, not unmingled with envy. But the charm of the ball was when, the stated exhibition over, the seniors were permitted to wind up the happy evening—the

restraint of the teacher's eye and voice ceased, and the boys were allowed to choose their own partners! Where are they all now? Many, alas! have vanished from the scene; and those who still survive are scattered far and wide over the world. When Mr M'Glashan first went to Peebles he paid 3s 6d a week for a comfortable sitting-room and bedroom in old Mr Whitie's (the shoemaker), near the East-gate end, and Mrs Whitie expressed the hope that he did not think it too dear! Latterly he lived in Mr Archibald Donaldson's (the clothier) house in the High Street, in rooms adjoining the garden. He was most popular, and his annual visits were looked forward to with the greatest delight by the youth of the town. Mr M'Glashan's brother was at one time proprietor and editor of the *Dublin University Magazine*—a periodical which had a large circulation in its day.

In 1798 Mr John Watson, tobacconist, Peebles, was anxious to start a snuff mill near the Waulk Mill, on account of the expense of carriage and damage to goods coming all the way from Edinburgh. Whether Mr Dickson, tenant of the Waulk Mill, agreed to the proposal or not is not very clear; but at any rate no snuff manufactory was erected in the town.

In 1795 "Old Q" ordered many of the ancient yews at Neidpath Castle to be cut down, in order that his successor might not enjoy them—a proceeding which provoked the indignation of Wordsworth, when he and his sister Dorothy arrived at

Peebles in the course of their Scottish tour, and elicited from the poet the sonnet beginning :—

> Degenerate Douglas! Oh, the unworthy lord!
> Whom mere despite of heart could so far please,
> And love of havoc (for with such disease
> Fame taxes him) that he could send forth word
> To level with the dust a noble horde,
> A brotherhood of venerable trees,
> Leaving an ancient dome and towers like these
> Beggared and outraged!

A few of the neighbouring properties had then no residences attached to them. Acrefield had not become Rosetta, and Dr Young, who had been with Sir Ralph Abercromby in Egypt, had not arrived. Hay Lodge had been only recently erected by Captain Hay of Soonhope; and "Adjy" Burton, as he was called, had lately come to "Minden," which was formerly known as "Skinnerheuch," but received its new name from the battle of Minden. Kingsmeadows was a small house in comparison with that which now occupies the site, and Venlaw House, erected on the remains of the Castle of Smithfield, after passing through various hands, had been acquired by Major Erskine. The Kerfield Brewery was rising into repute, and Mr Kerr—one of an old Peebles family—was establishing for himself a name, and greatly enlarging his business.

In the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, 16th October, 1789, there is an advertisement of the "lands of Smithfield," which were to be sold by public roup. It is described as consisting of 74 acres, and an "excellent

house built within the last few years." It is "held by the Crown, and affords a freehold qualification in the county." Smithfield repeatedly changed hands. In 1729 it was possessed by Mr Plenderleath, who sold it to Mr Stevenson, farmer, Dreva, whose son was Sheriff Stevenson. The house was built in 1782. The property passed by sale to Ludovic Grant, and from his heirs it was purchased in 1798 by Major Erskine. Winkston is also advertised in the same paper, and both are to be "enquired about" from "Mr Stuart Moodie, W.S." The same number of the *Advertiser* contains an account of the French Revolution, the "Confinement of the King, Queen, and Royal Family," and "Attempted Murder of the Queen."

In October 1801, a celebrated medical man came to Peebles as a practitioner — Mungo Park, the African explorer. He was born at Foulshiels, Yarrow, in 1771, and received his education at the Grammar School of Selkirk. At first intended for the Church, he ultimately preferred medicine, and became for a time apprentice to Dr Thomas Anderson of Selkirk — a famous physician and surgeon in his day — and afterwards went to complete his studies at the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed in 1792 surgeon in the East India Company, and sailed for the East Indies in the "Worcester." On his return he entered the service of an association for promoting discoveries in the interior of Africa, and in 1795 went to the Dark Continent, where he had several stirring adventures on the Niger. He

came back to his native country, but quitted it in 1798 for London, whence he set out for Peebles in 1801, accompanied by his wife, who was a daughter of his old friend Dr Anderson. He rented the house in the Northgate, at the head of the Briggate, which is distinguished by two pillars, one on each side of the door, and which, in later times, was occupied by Mr Fotheringham, writer. Park obtained a good practice—notwithstanding the fame of Dr Reid—and set up a "surgery or apothecary shop" in the High Street, where Provost Lossock's Temperance Hotel is now, but where, within the memory of man, was a flesher's shop, kept by Mr Robert Ballantyne—next door to "Jamie Dickson the baker." A tablet in the front wall of the Hotel marks the spot on which this small and humble tenement stood. Among Park's friends in Peebles were Colonel John Murray, who lived in "Quebec Hall" (Sheriff Orphoot's house), at the Eastgate end; Mr Williamson, and Dr Adam Ferguson, the historian, who lived at Hallyards. With many of the residents in the town he was on terms of familiarity. Some of them had known him in his boyhood, and had also been well acquainted with his wife and her father. He returned to London in December 1803 to sail with an expedition, which was eventually postponed, and revisited Peebles in the following year, accompanied by Sidi Omback Boubi, a native of Mogador, who was to instruct him in Arabic. A black man had seldom or ever been seen in Peebles before, and this new arrival created much excitement. The family

resided in Peebles from the beginning of March till the middle of May, when they all went to Foulshiels. Having received a summons from the Under Secretary of State, he left in September 1804. An aged servant of Mr Park told the author she remembered the parting between him and his wife—"Ailie, say the word, and I'll stay," he said; but she, knowing the earnestness of his desire to go, with great self-denial restrained "the word" she certainly wished to speak. So he went. To Mr Williamson, in Peebles, he wrote the following letter, when on the eve of starting for his last journey to Africa:—

Dear Friend,—I embrace this opportunity of sending you a few lines to inform you that we are on board, and expect to sail for Africa in a few hours. When I saw you at Edr. I had every reason to believe that all thoughts of the expedition were for the present laid aside. On my arrival in London I was informed that the Ministry were still desirous to send out the expedition, but that the Plan was somewhat altered, particularly in respect to the number of troops to be employed in it. The alterations appeared to me very judicious, and I was immediately offered the Chief command of it, both Civil and Military, and was assured that no person should be employed in it but such as I approved. I have accordingly got Mr Anderson for my second in command, and George Scott of Singlie for Draughtsman, so that we are all three schoolfellows. Mr Anderson and me have Brevet Commission, with temporary and local rank, in order to make the red-coats shoulder their *hoops*. We expect to be at St Iago in about 20 days hence, where we must purchase 50 African cavalry, *alias* Jackasses. We then proceed to Goree, and then into the Gambia. If all things succeed according to our expectations, we expect to be again in England on this day

twelve months; but if we have to go round by the West Indies, it will take us three or four months more. Excuse this scrawl, for it blows hard, and the vessel rolls very much. Give my compliments to Miss Summers, to Colonel Murray, the Sheriff, and all my good friends at Peebles.—I remain your sincere friend, MUNGO PARK.

"Crescent" Transport, Spithead, January 29, 1805.

P.S.—I had almost forgot to tell you that we have the "Eugenia" sloop of war for our particular convoy, and she is not to quit us till we are landed. I hope we shall see a fight between her and some of the French privateers. M. P.

Alas! things did not succeed according to anticipation, and we all know the melancholy end of brave Mungo Park in the Far East. The expedition met a disastrous fate—Mr Anderson and Mr Scott died, and Mungo Park was murdered.

As has just been stated, among Park's friends who visited him in Peebles, and whom he also visited at their homes, was old Dr Adam Ferguson, tenant of Hallyards, father of Sir Adam Ferguson, the intimate friend of Walter Scott. He rented this little property from Mr Campbell of Kailzie; and on his return from Italy, whither he had gone on a tour, removed to it from Neidpath Castle, which he had occupied for a short time. Dr Ferguson was well known as a historian and philosopher. He was born at Logierait Manse in 1724, educated in St Andrews and Edinburgh, was chaplain to the 42d Regiment in Flanders, and afterwards Professor in Edinburgh University. He was the author of an

Essay on Civil Society, *The History of the Roman Republic*, *Institutes of Moral Philosophy*, and other works. When he went to Hallyards he was an old man, but fond of rural life and scenery. He enlarged the fine garden, and placed in its centre a dial, with the inscription, "Soli posuit. A. Ferguson, 1803." To form an idea of one who was frequently seen in the High Street of Peebles, the following description from Lord Cockburn's *Memorials* may be given:— "His hair was silky and white; his eyes animated and blue; his cheeks sprinkled with broken red like autumnal apples, but fresh and healthy; his lips thin, and the under one curled. A severe paralytic attack had reduced his animal vitality, though it left no external appearance, and he required considerable artificial heat. His raiment, therefore, consisted of half-boots lined with fur, cloth breeches, a long cloth waistcoat with capacious pockets, a single-breasted coat, a cloth greatcoat, also lined with fur, and a felt hat, commonly tied by a ribbon below the chin. His boots were black, but with this exception the whole covering, including the hat, were of the Quaker-grey colour, or of a whitish brown; and he generally wore the furred greatcoat even within doors. When he walked forth he used a tall staff, which he commonly held at arm's length towards the right side; and his two coats, each buttoned only by the copper button, flowed open below, and exposed the whole of his curious and venerable figure. His gait and air were noble; his gesture and his look full of dignity and composed

fire. He looked like a philosopher from Lapland. . . . He always locked the door of his study when he left it, and took the key in his pocket; and no housemaid got in till the accumulation of dust and rubbish made it impossible to put off the evil day longer; and then, woe to the family."

The following entry in the note book from which the author has already made extracts is of interest:—"Thursday, 22nd October, 1807.—Left Peebles for Selkirk and Foulshiels to attend the marriage of Mr John Anderson, surgeon of the Marines at Woolwich, and son of Mr Anderson, surgeon, Selkirk, upon Miss Elizabeth Park, at Foulshiels, sister of Mr Mungo Park, the celebrated African traveller. Dined with the marriage party and staid at Foulshiels all night; went with them next day to Selkirk, and dined and staid with Mr Anderson all night. Left Selkirk next day, dined at Foulshiels, and came to Mr Williamson's of Cardrona all night, and returned on Sunday morning, 25th October, 1807."

Another entry occurs under "Saturday, 22nd November, 1807:—Captain M'Kay of Scotston was buried at Newlands. I was prevented from attending the funeral by an immense storm of snow, which fell on Friday and blocked up the roads. Mr Ker of Kerfield was buried in Edinburgh same day. They both died in Edinburgh on the preceding Monday —Captain M'Kay at his house in Charlotte Square, and Mr Ker at his house in Clyde Street. The deaths of both were sudden. Mr Ker left Kerfield

at Whitsunday, and Captain M'Kay left Scotston in October. Both are much regretted." Clyde Street, where Mr Ker had his residence, was then different from what it now is—a lane almost wholly devoted to warehouses. It was on the very outskirts of the new town of Edinburgh; and not far from it were Wood's farmhouse and fields, where is now the western portion of Queen Street and Wemyss Place.

About this period Miss Ritchie's ascendancy in the Cross Keys was disputed, and a rival establishment was started. Miss Ritchie was the prototype of "Meg Dods" in *St Ronan's Well*. Her sister lived at one time in the High Street, in the house once occupied by Miss Crocket, above "Charlie Tait's" shop. She was in some respects unlike Miss Ritchie, who, though very brusque in her manner, had a kindly heart. Miss Ritchie allowed no excess in her house, and when a company assembled dismissed them at the hour she deemed proper. If any young man seemed inclined to exceed in his potations, she hesitated not to rebuke him and refuse him an additional supply. "Ye have just got plenty now; gae away to yer mother." The Presbytery always dined at her inn as long as she lived. "It would have broken her heart," writes Mr Campbell of Eastwood, who heard the account from his father (the minister of Traquair), "if they had countenanced the 'hottle.' Her death occurred one afternoon while the members were at dinner. With characteristic care for their comfort,

almost her last words were, 'are the ministers a' richt?' When they received news of her decease, they immediately broke up the club for the day." Miss Ritchie and her sister were regular in their attendance at the Parish Church, but, in passing thither up the High Street, they never turned their heads in the direction of the obnoxious Tontine. In *St Ronan's Well* Miss Ritchie's feelings are depicted very clearly in regard to those who frequented the hotel "at the spa," and did not deign to patronise her old-fashioned but more comfortable abode. Miss Ritchie died in July 1841. There were several houses of a common kind near the Church, on the south side of the High Street. These had been bought up and removed to make room for the Tontine, which was nearly completed about the close of 1807, and was opened for the use of the public in the following year. It would be interesting to have a photograph of the houses which were swept away at this part of the street, as well as of the dwellers in them. Information about them is difficult to obtain. But one can easily imagine what a change was made in the appearance of the street by their removal, and by the transformation into stables and coach-houses of the little gardens running down to Tweed Green. The county ladies and others in the town, who anticipated the pleasure of the oft-recurring balls, were pleased that a ball-room was added to the hotel, and came forward to help in making it taste-

ful and attractive. They subscribed a considerable sum, about £150, to paint and decorate it. The whole cost was about £4000, inclusive of £900 paid for the houses which were purchased and swept away. Mr Lenoir was the first tenant of the Tontine. He was a foreigner, and we do not know now why he was chosen. But he conducted it well, and was succeeded by his widow, Mrs Lenoir (or "Lenore," as she was called), who left a legacy, the interest of which was to be divided among deserving widows belonging to the town.

At this time the "Fly" became the established conveyance between Peebles and Edinburgh. The fare was 10s 6d. This was an increase upon the 2s 6d charged for a seat in the "Caravan," which ceased to run—if that word is applicable to it—and which was wont to leave Peebles about 8 A.M., being timed to reach the Grassmarket at 6 P.M. The "Fly" was much superior and swifter. It carried three "insides" and one "outside" on the "dickey." It had two horses, instead of the one by which Mr Wilson's "Caravan" was drawn. It stopped *en route* at Howgate, where the passengers dined, and performed the journey in six or seven hours. A very great improvement was thus effected for those who could neither walk nor ride. Not till 1825 was a coach put upon the road by Croall, so that for nearly twenty years the conveyance of passengers was only thrice a week from Peebles to Edinburgh, and *vice versa*. There are letters extant, one of which will be quoted afterwards,

begging that a seat may be secured in the "Fly" in time to prevent disappointment.

There was no bank in Peebles till about 1825 or 1826. All transactions were carried on directly with the Metropolis; and the public carriers were employed to bear remittances and cheques. These carriers were well known, and as a rule most trustworthy and honest, which they would require to have been, as great responsibility was laid upon them. In 1700, however, "George Broune, caryer in Peebles," was accused of stealing "sheaves from Alex. Leadbetter's stack, and throwing the samen before his horse," and punished by imprisonment for three days. He was ordered to find caution for his civil, christian, and honest behaviour in time coming, to be brought on Tuesday at 10 o'clock and "sett at the cockstoolls, with a sheaf of oats about his neck, and to stand till 12."

It has been said that Danish prisoners of war were brought to Peebles. They were treated with much kindness by the inhabitants, and an entry in the note book, under date Saturday, 19th December, 1807, is — "John Peat, Wr., postage anent ordering dinner at Miss Ritchie's, and intimating to the Danish officers, prisoners here, to attend him anent prizes on Monday—5½." Some of the prisoners became naturalised, and remained in Peebles, devoting themselves to trades. It is not long since several signboards bore names which indicated the nationality of the merchants.

There was a grand cavalry ball on the 10th of December, 1807, at which the Yeomanry Cavalry were present, and which cost each member £1, 1s. At this time the ball-room was in the building now occupied as the Corn Exchange, for the Tontine ball-room was not ready.

A number of French prisoners, officers and men captured in the Peninsular War, arrived in Peebles about this time. If tradition speaks truth, the "Mess-house," where the officers, and perhaps both officers and men, dined was Quebec Hall, vacated by Dr Lee when the repairs on the manse were completed. In order to amuse themselves these captives got up theatrical performances, which were held in the ball-room, and proved a great source of enjoyment to themselves and those who were invited. When any of them misbehaved, or attempted to escape, they were summarily tried and punished. An aged friend lately informed the author that he and a number of boys were wont to climb up on the "Mess-house" wall to witness the unfortunate prisoners being "whipped" in the garden.

The Town Council were in the habit, then as now, of observing their statutory duty of returning an elder to the General Assembly, and Mr Thomas Cranstoun, W.S., Edinburgh, was for several years chosen. In 1804 he again offered himself for election, and was appointed; but in 1807 Mr Thomas Russell was his successful opponent.

On the 8th of February, 1804, "Commissary

Robertson died 'twixt 3 and 4 o'clock. He had been 47 years Sheriff-Clerk, and lately resigned the office of Commissary, which was procured for his son, J. M. Robertson. He held also all the different offices in the gift of the county." This family came to Peebles from Elgin, about the middle of the eighteenth century. The first house Mr Robertson occupied was "Firknowe," on the road to Neidpath Castle; and the next was near the foot of the Old Town, thence he moved to the residence in the west end of the High Street which is now the Commercial Bank. His grandson was Mr James Robertson, manager of the Union Bank of Scotland. Mr John Murray Robertson, W.S., appears among the early members of the Peeblesshire Society.

Till a period "within the memory of man," Cuddy Bridge, by which the Old and New Towns were united, possessed a very high arch, which caused the ascent on the one side and the descent on the other to be very steep. It was dangerous for vehicles, yet accidents rarely occurred, extreme caution being exercised in crossing the bridge.

The floods which occasionally swept over Tweed Green have been referred to. One in September 1807, which was very alarming, has been described. Before the embankment was made the Green was unprotected. Now and again the water rose to such a height—though it seldom entered Cabbage Hall garden—that the inmates of the houses at the east side of the Green were greatly agitated, and

frequently had to use "tubs" in which to effect communication with their neighbours.

On the 4th of June 1807 there was a grand parade of the Volunteers, and at the close a mess dinner in Thomson's. For some time there had been considerable annoyance caused by people trespassing at Neidpath Castle and breaking the windows, and at last an advertisement was issued in the Edinburgh newspapers (circulated once or twice a week in Peebles), and by bills, at the instance of Mr Crawford Tait, W.S., agent for the Duke of Queensberry ("Old Q"), prohibiting idle persons from going into Neidpath Castle, and offering a reward for their apprehension.

In the note book referred to, under date 15th May, 1803, there is an entry to the following effect:—"Died within these few months, Alexander Tweedie, Esq. of Quarter, a freeholder of this county; Thomas Tweedie, Esq. of Oliver, J.P., and in possession of a freehold, though not enrolled. Both died instantly, and without any previous complaint. John Scott, Esq., W.S., a freeholder; and Sir James Montgomery, late Lord Chief Baron. Sir George Home at Darnhall died there last week; and Mr Thomas Chalmers, in Eddleston, died last night: he went to bed in health, and was found dead in the morning." Further on, under date 17th September, it is recorded:—"Mr Reid died on Friday, 16th September 1803, 'twixt 6 and 7 in the evening. He was a few months entered into the 70th year of his

age. He had practised in Peebles as a surgeon for more than fifty years with the greatest eminence. He held the office of Provost of Peebles for thirteen years before his death, and had at a former period been Provost for seven years, and had been forty years in the Town Council without ever being out of it. He was appointed Sheriff-Substitute of Peebles in 1796, which office he also held till his death. As a surgeon and Provost of the burgh he had the esteem of all, and died universally and sincerely lamented by the whole of his friends and numerous acquaintances. Perhaps there never was a death more bewailed. On the Monday preceding his death he met the Town Council in good health and spirits, and asked them to an entertainment in the Town Treasurer's; and, contrary to his custom, continued with them till near two in the morning. During that time he displayed more than ordinary spirits. He was very temperate then, as always. When he went home he was seized with a severe illness [which is described], and although every assistance in Peebles and Edinburgh was obtained, the disease (as he himself prognosticated from the beginning) proved 'twixt seven and eight on Friday evening fatal to him. The pain he endured during his short illness was most excruciating, yet his senses and resolution never failed him. He sent for his son, Mr John, and his family, and Miss Reid, his daughter, with all his servants; and in the most composed and serene manner tenderly took his leave of the whole. He then inquired what o'clock it was,

and being told it was near six o'clock he said he was sorry it was not later, for there was more of his journey to come than he expected. He shook hands with the minister, Dr Dalgleish; turned his head, said 'It's over,' and expired." Such was the end of a very famous physician and surgeon whose name was known far and wide. His son, Dr John Reid, was not so famous, but he had a good practice. He declined, when requested, to enter the Town Council, because, among other reasons, he had promised his father to keep clear of any political line of conduct.

It appears from the note-book that the farmers' ball which was to have taken place in October, 1803, was postponed — "No ball this season on account of the imminent danger of invasion. Most of the gentlemen were taken up with military duties as Volunteer Yeomanry Cavalry and Volunteer Infantry. The strength of the county in Volunteer Yeomanry and Infantry is 603 — Yeomanry, 48; the rest Infantry. Three companies in Peebles, of 80 rank and file. One company at Innerleithen; one company at Linton; and one at Kirkurd and Skirling—total, 603." Mr Williamson was captain in the Yeomanry Cavalry, and among the members were Mr Turnbull, Mr White of Hamildean, and several others. On Monday, 9th January 1804, the "Kirkurd, Linton, and Innerleithen companies of Volunteers marched into Peebles by orders from the Commander-in-Chief, to be battalioned with the three Peebles

companies for five days. The day was stormy to an extraordinary degree, and the snow very deep. Yet the Volunteers came in, and are now quartered on the inhabitants, but no parade or drill on account of the storm." Next day the weather was much the same, but on Wednesday the 11th "the six companies paraded in the street, and marched to the Floors, at Soonhope Burn, and fired ball cartridge at targets." On Thursday "the six companies again parade on the street, and are marched to the Eshielly Haugh, and are drilled for four hours." On Friday, "Parade on the street at 10, and again march to Eshielly Haugh, where they are inspected by Colonel M'Murdo and reviewed—Lord Elibank, Colonel of the regiment, and Sir George Montgomery, Lieut.-Colonel. The ground was kept clear by the troops of Tweeddale Yeomanry Cavalry, under Sir James Montgomery, and there were only 13 persons absent in the whole six companies. They consisted of (including officers, sergeants, &c.) 560 men, and cavalry about 40." There was mess every day, which cost the officers about 6s, or 6s 6d each, while the non-commissioned officers were entertained at 3s 6d. On Friday, after parade, "the whole officers are made burgesses in the Town Hall, and the county companies march out of town to-morrow." The people who did not wish to have the soldiers billeted on them paid so much for subsistence money and lodgings. About one pound per man tided over the five days.

These military manœuvres being finished, local

matters received attention. There was a proposition to procure an additional supply of water for the town, and Mr John Johnston reported on the matter. The wells on Venlaw were examined, and several small springs in the hill inspected, but the only way to get an abundant and permanent supply was said to be from the burn at Soonhope Mill, which could be conducted in an earthen pipe along a track which would not damage the mill, while a cistern might be placed at the hedge on the north boundary of Mr Reid's park.

On 10th February, 1798, an advertisement appeared for contractors to build "a prison-house, 48 feet long, 2 stories and sunk cellar, in the town of Peebles, and also 3 additional arches at the south end of the bridge over the river Tweed there. The plans and articles to be seen in the Town Clerk's office, and estimates received till the 10th of March." On October 20th the same year, the inspectors gave in the following report:—"We, Andrew Scott and Thomas Tod, masons in Peebles, mutually chosen by the Employers and Undertakers to inspect the mason work of the prison-house, and find it agreeable to the contracts, and good work, and the dimensions all answers to the contract, this we give as the best of our acknowledgment;" while "William Sanderson and Thomas Grieve certify to the excellence of the wood work."

Some dispute had arisen between the Duke of Queensberry and the Council in 1798 about the farm of Edderston. The town had held it since 1763,

and the Magistrates were warned that they were to get it no longer. It had been used by those burgesses who kept cows, and six weeks was all the time allowed for consideration. It had been rented for some years at £23, but this sum was raised to £45. The Council petitioned his Grace, "out of favour to the townsmen of his native place," to allow them a preference in granting an advanced rent, which they were willing to make £60. The good offices of the Duke of Buccleuch were sought, that he might intercede with "Old Q." But he replied from Dalkeith House that he was sorry he could be of no use. "I sincerely wish," he said, "he had been better advised. I know his Grace does not like any interference in matters of that sort. If he had asked my opinion I should certainly have advised him, for many reasons, not to have disturbed the agreement. If, however, a proper opportunity should offer where my services could be of use in this business, you may depend on my endeavours to accommodate the affair to the satisfaction of the borough and its inhabitants."

The duties of the Magistracy were not always pleasant, and therefore some gentlemen declined the honour of election. The Magistrates in those days chose their successors. For instance Mr Robert Marshall in 1790 writes to say that while "highly sensible to the honour of being chosen," he finds it inconvenient to accept the office—his chief reason being "a solemn promise I made to a deceased friend (who not long ago filled your

principal chair) that I never would be in the Council of Peebles unless compell'd," and he flatters himself they "will not use compulsory methods." It has been shown that the road leading from the Ludgate to the Churchyard was used by the friars and priests of olden time, and, regarded simply as an ancient path, might have been safe from intrusion. But the people having seen their old commons and privileges disappearing gradually, no doubt thought they might get benefit as well as the lairds. So it occurred, in 1796, to W. Ballantyne, Thomas Stoddart, John Veitch, John Baird, and William Richardson, who dwelt in that part of the town close by the Ludgate, to petition the Council —as the road led nowhere and was occupied only by dunghills — to allow them to add it to their gardens, which lay on the south of it, and they would pay a reasonable price as yearly feu-duty.

Lord Stopford, who was the Duke of Buccleuch's son-in-law, and had the good wishes of the Duke of Queensberry, became a candidate for the representation of the burgh in 1766, and intimated to Provost Reid that he would take the earliest opportunity of paying his respects to the Council. But his application was in vain, for Lieutenant William Montgomery (Stanhope) was chosen by the delegates.

In 1792 Mr John Grieve sent in the following terse estimate for repairs on the drove road or its approach, to the "Honerable Magistrettes and Councle for making your Road lying betwext Bon-

booton March and Adam Doods' house. I oblige myself to form your Road from Adam Doods' house to Robert Henderson's land 28 feet Broad, for 2s per Rood," &c.

The Council anciently had right to part of the glebe of the parish of Kettins, and a correspondence anent it took place on 6th August, 1796, with Mr John Smyth, W.S., who declared that the Magistrates seemed to have a claim to the patronage, superiority of the kirk lands thereof, and rights depending thereon: but though these rights were kept alive, no effectual steps were taken to ascertain what they really were. He suggested therefore, as the present incumbent was not only old but extremely frail, "and to all human appearance very near his departure for the other world," it was absolutely necessary that something be done immediately. Mr Smyth thought the Magistrates had every chance of success. He was willing, if they conveyed their right to him, to fight it out, and pay them the difference. A short time afterwards he was employed in looking into the matter, but what was the end of it is not stated. The interesting point is this—how did Peebles come to have anything to do with a parish so remote as Kettins, which is near Blairgowrie? The answer is, that the kirk or kirk lands of Kettins had been at a very early date gifted to the Cross Kirk, and remained in its possession for a long period. Whether any sum was drawn from these lands after the Reformation cannot be determined.

The town's revenue—from Muir Park, Upper Franks Croft, Walker's Haugh and Gytes, Nether Franks Croft, Shielgreen (£144); Mills, Customs, Ninian's Haugh, Weighing Machine, Flodders, Dalatho, Cademuir Toums, Waulk Mill, Slaughter-house and Sale Booth, Kirk Seats (£15, 11s 4d)—was, at the end of the century, not much more than £380.

In 1803 Mr Andrew Ritchie gave an estimate to the Council for repairing Tweed Bridge, which he proposed to do by taking out (at the southland breast) the old work which was patched up, and build it with new ashler and hot lime, and place bars of iron into the wood at the foundation and into the freestone—£30, 12s.

CHAPTER III.

If sportsmen have occasionally to complain of unfavourable weather in the month of August, and of the change which has come over the commencement, at any rate, of the shooting season, disappointments were also experienced long ago. For instance, an entry in the note-book, under date "Tuesday, 11th August, 1807," is to the following effect:—"Went to Manorhead for muir shooting, with Mr Little Gilmore, W.S., and Captain Burton. Remained there till Saturday the 15th inst. The weather extremely wet, with thunder. Birds very scarce, and so young as to be hardly worth shooting at. Killed on Wednesday 3½ brace; Thursday, 1½ brace; Friday, 1 brace and hare; Saturday, 1 brace."

On Tuesday, 1st September, 1807, there was held a cattle show at Peebles, under the auspices of the Association for Improving the Breed of Cattle, which had been in existence for some time, and no doubt was the precursor of those agricultural shows which are now so common in the country. On the 5th of September there occurred a storm of remarkable severity. It was on a Saturday, and,

as is recorded, "it began to rain about 2 o'clock p.m., with a storm of wind from the north-east, and continued to rain and blow without almost intermission till nine o'clock in the evening of Sunday the 6th. Eddleston Water rose so high on Sunday afternoon as to run over the footpath of the wooden bridge at the Bridgegate foot, and carry off the stone and lime parapet wall; on the under side the water was up to Mr Turnbull's garden door, and the stone bridge over the mill-dam was mostly covered over the walls, and the water swelled out at the north end of Cuddiepool Bridge. About seven o'clock Tweed rose to the pier of the second arch from the town, marked seven feet above the ordinary height of the river. The Old Mound road was all covered but a few yards opposite the middle of the Dukehaugh, and the water was within 24 feet of the parapet walls of the road and bridge leading to Manor Water, and covering the turnpike road for a considerable way on the south side of the bridge. The highest flood known in the memory of man, and immense damage done to the crops. Tweed was not at its height when it became dark, but, from markings I made in Cabbage Hall garden, the water continued to increase till nine o'clock, and rose from seven till that hour near a foot in the garden. The bridge over Soonhope burn was filled up by stones and gravel, and the water left its course, made its way down the road to Kerfield, and has entirely broke up the same. Bridges broke at Eddlestone, Eddlestone Water Heads, Innerleithen, and Galashiels."

Provost Ker was succeeded in office by Provost Smibert. Mr Smibert does not appear to have had much love for antiquities, for he actually assented to the monstrous proposal of turning the Cross Kirk into a coal depôt! He also desired to remove the Cross, that it might be sold as "useless rubbish," and arrangements were made for demolishing this interesting relic of the past; but Sir John Hay fortunately secured and preserved it. Some of the Council and people no doubt wondered what he could see in an old stone shaft which was of no value. But he did see something in it, and took it to Kingsmeadows. Sir Adam presented it to the Chambers Institution, where it stood for years. But now it is to be re-erected by Mr William Thorburn near its old site at the head of the Northgate, where it will remain, silently testifying to the centuries which are gone, and recalling many episodes in the history of the royal burgh.

On the 21st of July 1807 Lieut.-Colonel Murray died. He has been mentioned before as one of Mungo Park's friends in Peebles. He was uncle to Mr Wolfe Murray, who bought Cringletie from his brother Alexander, about the end of the last century. He lived in Quebec Hall, the house at the east end of the Eastgate, opposite Mr Williamson's, on the site of which the Free Church is erected. It has already been mentioned that the name of Quebec Hall was given because the house had been occupied by Mr Francis Russell of the Military Hospital at Quebec. It was afterwards tenanted

by Dr Lee, when the manse was undergoing repairs; was the residence for a great many years of Dr Renton; and is now possessed by Sheriff Orphoot, and called the "Priory." In the note book the following entry occurs, 21st July, 1807:—"Lieut.-Col. James Murray died this morning at 4 o'clock. As a soldier he was esteemed in his day. As a gentleman he was beloved and respected by all who knew him, and was my most particular friend and intimate acquaintance." As there was no regular post to distant parts of the country, the following entries give an idea of the manner of doing things at the time—"Paid for an express going to Macbiehill with burial letter, 3s." "Paid Andrew Hall in full for express to Edinburgh, 7s 4d." "Paid Wm. Thomson for going to Traquair and Pirn with funeral letters, 3s 6d." Another entry is 25th (Saturday):—"Attended the funeral of my worthy friend, Colonel Murray, from his house here to Cringletie Aisle in Eddleston Church. He was born at Cringletie, 2nd Sept. 1726."

In September, 1807, Dr Dalgleish died, full of years and honours. He was in the 74th year of his age, and 47th of his ministry. He had been for many years chaplain to the Peeblesshire Regiment of Volunteers. There was universal and sincere regret at his death. He was buried in the churchyard, and the following inscription is on his tombstone:—

In memory of the Rev. William Dalgleish, D.D., minister of the Gospel at Peebles. He died 20th September 1807, in the 74th year of his age and 47th of his ministry; distinguished by

superior endowments of mind and by eminent qualifications for the work of the ministry. His fervent piety, his persuasive eloquence, the sweetness of his Christian temper, and his unwearied diligence in the service of his Great Master, rendered him admired and beloved while he lived, and at his death deeply lamented. "He was a burning and a shining light; and we were willing for a season to rejoice in his light."—John v. 35.

At the beginning of October some representation was apparently made by the Council to the Duke of Queensberry anent a successor. Mr James Little, W.S., Edinburgh, on hearing of the Doctor's death, wrote to a friend in Peebles expressing his regret at the news, for "the Doctor had so long officiated with so much honour to himself and real good to his parishioners." In his letter he mentions the name of Mr John Lee as a fit person to be recommended to the patron, and adds—"I know that the Duke of Queensberry will pay great attention to any application sanctioned by the Council of Peebles, and I have every reason to believe that Mr Lee's friends have already interested themselves in his favour by a personal application to his Grace. I could not have presumed to interfere in this matter were I not most conscientiously convinced that I was doing a real service to the parish of Peebles. Mr Lee was for a considerable part of his life in the family of the late Rev. and justly celebrated Dr Carlyle, and I have had many personal opportunities of knowing Dr Carlyle's sentiments of him, and I have often heard that worthy man declare that

Mr Lee would be a great treasure to any parish. Mr Lee can also be recommended by Dr Grieve, Dr Finlayson, and several of the other most eminent among our Edinburgh ministers. If I might be allowed to add my testimony respecting Mr Lee's qualifications, I can freely declare that he is a most excellent preacher, a devout and pious man, and a very good companion. He is presently officiating in a Presbyterian Church in London, where he is very much respected and esteemed; but I know that he is anxious to return to Scotland, and would gladly accept of such a situation as the parish of Peebles."

This letter, though private at the time it was written, may almost be regarded as a historical document, when we remember the great eminence to which Mr Lee afterwards attained. It shews how highly he was regarded, not only by his friends, but by such a man as "Jupiter Carlyle." Few people acquainted with the history of the Church are ignorant of the commanding position Dr Carlyle of Inveresk occupied. And there is no more agreeable book, casting light on the eighteenth century, than the life of this famous minister, whose reminiscences are most varied and interesting. They give a vivid picture of society in his time, and are most valuable from a historical point of view. A communication was sent to his Grace of Buccleuch from the Council anent a minister, on the 10th of October, but what was its purport, of course cannot be told except by

those who have access to the Council books. On the 21st of October a representation was made to the Presbytery by the Magistrates and Council about supplying the vacancy. But in the month of November there arrived a letter from Dalkeith House, signed by Buccleuch, in which it was intimated that the Duke of Queensberry had left the appointment to him; and that, after much anxiety to discharge the trust reposed in him, he had found a person perfectly well qualified for the situation, and one likely to give satisfaction. That person was the Rev. John Lee, M.D. It seemed that no application had been made by the town, or by any party connected with the county, in favour of a particular individual, so that his Grace had no reason for hesitation in his choice. Provost Smibert was duly apprised of the appointment, and the necessary steps were taken by the Presbytery for the induction of Dr Lee. In the note-book from which quotations have been so frequently made, an entry occurs on 8th December, under heading, "Carlyle Bell, W.S."—"Paid clerk's fees of protestation on delivering to the Presbytery Dr Lee's presentation to the parish of Peebles, £1, 11s, and to James Wilson for bringing presentation, 10s 6d."

The Presbytery had changed very little since the date of Mr Johnstone's presentation to Innerleithen. The only alterations which had been made were in Traquair and Drummelzier. In the former, Mr James Nicol, who was a native of Innerleithen,

had succeeded Mr Walker in 1802. Mr Nicol was well known as a man of great ability and kindliness of heart. He was the author of several poems, one or two of which are of considerable merit. His views were not, in some respects, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church, and, as was said before, Mr Johnstone of Innerleithen published a sermon in refutation of them. At Drummelzier Mr Welsh had been succeeded by Mr Robert Haldane, who, however, very soon was appointed Professor of Mathematics in the University of St Andrews.

Dr Lee was comparatively young when he came to Peebles; and as he rose to a high position, which he adorned for many years, it is right that a sketch of his career should be given. Born of humble parents in the parish of Stow, about 1779—just when Dr Dalgleish was pressing the heritors for a new church—he was sent at an early age to Caddonfoot School, to be instructed by Mr Paris. An assistant was employed to help the master, and when the boy John Lee arrived, he was placed under his care. That assistant had come from Denholm, and was four years older than his pupil—whom he was afterwards to meet in Edinburgh in very different circumstances. His name was John Leyden. He delighted in wandering, during his leisure hours, on the hills above Ashiestiel and Yair, by the Tweed and Caddon Water, up the glens and beside the burns which were to be celebrated by

a brother poet — the same who, in future years, was to mourn that

"A distant and a deadly shore has Leyden's cold remains."

Himself poor, ambitious, conscious of a power within him that must be revealed, Leyden was struggling upwards, if not to fortune, at any rate to fame. Unprepossessing in appearance, somewhat uncouth in manners, and not a little vain of his attainments, he was destined to

"Snatch from the bending poplar pale
The magic harp of ancient Teviotdale."

Dr Lee always followed with deepest interest the adventures of his old preceptor—the quondam licentiate of the Church, the brilliant Oriental scholar, whose career suddenly terminated in mid course in a far distant Eastern land. In 1794 John Lee—the raw lad from the rural school—entered the University of Edinburgh, where he continued to prosecute his studies with success, and to take honours. We know little of his college days and of his intimate companions, but a light is thrown upon his fellow students and teachers by himself in one of his inaugural addresses, when, on opening the session of 1842, he spoke of Edinburgh University as he remembered it. The custom till his death was, on the first day of the session to assemble the students in the Chemistry Class-room, where

the Principal delivered a lecture. This custom was abandoned by Sir Alexander Grant, who succeeded Sir David Brewster. One reason which had considerable weight—though it was not the only one—in leading to the abandonment of these gatherings was the somewhat disorderly conduct of a large number of "freshmen," who signalised their first appearance in the halls of learning by unpleasant and unearthly sounds, and by a free expenditure of peas, as well as by long continued and very loud conversation, which was not agreeable to the lecturer or to the more sedate portion of the audience. The author was present on one such occasion, and the voice of the reverend and learned Principal—not strong at the best—was scarcely heard beyond two or three benches from the platform on which he stood, surrounded by the Professors of the University. In the address referred to, Dr Lee says—"When I overstepped the threshold of this seat of learning in 1794 more than half of its irregular, unadorned, and decaying buildings presented to the eye of every reflecting spectator a very intelligible and graphic memorial of the character and condition of the patrons of art in Scotland at the date of its first erection; while another portion was towering up in polished and solid grandeur, as if to proclaim to all who then observed the contrast—now no longer visible—that in respect at least of public munificence and taste the former times were not better than these. When my acquaintance with it commenced it

held out advantages, in respect both of the transcendent merit of the teachers and the stimulus derived from the genius, spirit, and industry of the students, equal, at least, to what had been accessible at any former period. Never had the literature of Scotland gained a higher elevation; and while the provinces possessed an ample share of the intellectual wealth of the nation, the University of the capital stood proudly eminent. The fame of Robertson had reached its climax, and the going down of his sun had not been clouded by any mental decline. Another eloquent and philosophical writer, while vigorous in mind and devoted to lofty speculation, had a few years before retired from the ethical chair, after having attained high celebrity by his ingenious essay on "Civil Society," and by the history of the 'Progress and Termination of the Roman Republic.' . . . Cullen had recently ceased to occupy a place among the living cultivators of the science of medicine, whose renown had attracted admiring followers from every quarter of the globe. In that brilliant sphere the names of Black, of the second Munro, of Gregory, and of Rutherford were conspicuous; accompanied by others of surpassing diligence, all favourably known as medical writers." He next refers to the "presence of such men as the Fergusons and Blairs, the Stewarts, Playfairs, and Robisons, whose profound and luminous discussions of some of the most subtle and abstruse subjects of physical and moral investigation were pronounced by the consenting voice of

Europe to possess the strongest claims on the admiration of an enlightened age." Among his fellow-students he mentions Thomas M'Crie (one of the best of our historians), James Abercromby, Walter Scott, John Leyden (his old teacher), Andrew Thomson, David Brewster, Francis Horner, Henry Cockburn, Henry Brougham, Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Palmerston, Earl of Minto, Lord Glenelg, and Lord John Russell.

John Lee also attended the theological class taught by Dr Lawson at Selkirk—a famous and worthy man, at whose feet sat aspirants for the ministry of the Secession Church. But Lee's views underwent a change, and he joined the Church of Scotland. During his college curriculum he was offered the Professorship of Moral Philosophy in Wilna, West Russia, but while preparing to enter on the duties something occurred to break off the arrangement. As Mr Little mentions in the letter quoted above, John Lee had been for some time intimate with Dr Carlyle, and lived a good deal in the manse of Inveresk. As Lord Neaves says, "Dr Carlyle was then about eighty years of age, and still intimate with those of his own contemporaries who were alive—such as John Home and Adam Fergusson, who belonged, like himself, to a bygone age, and who had witnessed many remarkable events and social changes. It cannot be doubted that Dr Lee must have derived from this acquaintance a great deal of traditional knowledge as to the civil and ecclesiastical history

of Scotland in the eighteenth century; and his natural bias may have been confirmed towards that historical research, and that interest in personal character and anecdote, by which he was afterwards distinguished." He became tutor in the family of Sir John Lowther Johnstone of Westerhall, a near relative of the Marchioness of Annandale, whose letter has already been given. He took his medical degree while attending the Divinity Hall, and had the offer of several appointments in the Army and in the Navy. But he rejected these, and determined to abide by the Church.

Such is the man who succeeded Dr Dalgleish in the parish of Peebles, and although no one could predict what was to be his career, it was well known that his information on all subjects was perfectly marvellous. In fact, he was a walking encyclopædia. His sermons were always carefully prepared, his taste was fastidious, and his style was ornate. Not long after his arrival in Peebles he found that the manse required extensive repairs, for his predecessor had lived in it for about forty-six years. During the renovation he stayed, as has been already mentioned, in Quebec Hall, in the Eastgate.

He was entrusted in 1805 with the custody of his old friend Dr Carlyle's MSS., and he told the author that he was applied to, after he was settled in Edinburgh, by Mr Walter Scott for a sight of the precious documents, as he wished to ascertain

particulars about the Porteous mob. But, ignorant of the purpose for which they were asked (as the authorship of the Waverley Novels was still secret), he declined to give them up. They were published after Dr Lee's death by Mr John Hill Burton. He had also the MSS. of another friend, Rev. Dr Somerville of Jedburgh, which were edited and published by his son, the Rev. William Lee, who became Professor of Church History in the University of Glasgow.

Dr Lee's name being well known in Edinburgh, he was frequently asked to advocate the claims of religious and charitable institutions in the city. Several of these sermons were printed. The first was published about a year after he came to Peebles, and is entitled, "A sermon preached on Thursday, Feb. 9, 1809, the day appointed by His Majesty for a General Fast. By John Lee, M.D., minister of Peebles. Edin.: Printed by James Ballantyne & Company for Peter Hill, printer to the Church of Scotland." The sermon is thus dedicated—"To the Right Honourable Lady Caroline Douglas, &c., &c., the following pages are inscribed as a small tribute of respect and gratitude by Her Ladyship's most obedient and most humble servant, John Lee." The text is Numbers xxxii. 6, 7. The second was "Preached in St Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, on Sunday, 21st May, 1809, by the Rev. John Lee, M.D., minister of Peebles, at the request of the Managers of the Public Dispensary and Vaccine Institution; and published

by their direction." The text is Genesis xxi. 16—"Let me not see the death of the child." The third was preached in Peebles "on Wednesday, October 25, 1809, being the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne of Great Britain. By John Lee, M.D., minister of Peebles. Edin.: Printed by D. Schaw & Son." The text is Job xxix. 14–17.

Dr Lee had not been long in Peebles till he joined the Peeblean Society, and was unanimously chosen to be the chaplain. This post he occupied for about fifty years. He attended the annual meetings with great regularity—even came from St Andrews, no easy matter in those days. When successively minister of the Canongate, Lady Yester's, and the Old Church, and Principal of the University, he seldom failed to be present, till age and infirmity prevented him. This close connection with the Society was a testimony to the attachment he bore to Peebles—an attachment which never grew cold; for his favourite theme of conversation, when he met any one connected with the town, was his recollection of bygone days in the burgh. The author received much kindness from the Principal when in the Arts Classes and throughout his Divinity course—on account of old friendship with his father. Often he has sat in the retiring room at Dr Lee's request, listening to stories of Peebles and its characters.

Dr Lee kept a horse, and was known in Peebles and, afterwards, in St Andrews as a furious

rider. Occasionally, when he went to preach in a neighbouring parish, he hired a chaise, but only if he wished some one to accompany him. He frequently rode into Edinburgh, and put up, as all Peebles people did then, in the Grassmarket. On one occasion he was returning home at the close of a snowstorm, when the road in certain places was still deeply covered. Mr Gibson (connected with the Shaws family) was riding with him, and the two proceeded quietly to the top of Liberton Brae, when the Doctor said he could endure the slow pace no longer, and started forward at a gallop. He expected to reach Peebles long before Mr Gibson, but a mile or so further on he stuck fast in a wreath, and his friend had to extricate him. Again they kept together, till another fit of impatience came over him, and he rode away the second time. Once more he had to wait for assistance in the same predicament as formerly, and Mr Gibson and he entered Peebles side by side. In visiting among his parishioners, Dr Lee always inquired if old Bibles were in their houses, and examined them with great care. When he was in St Andrews he wrote to Mr Williamson, with whom he kept up a correspondence, and begged him to procure as many of these Bibles as he could induce the owners to part with — giving the names of those who possessed them.

In 1812 he was appointed Professor in St Andrews, and left Peebles with great regret. The people, too, would fain have kept him, but he felt

that the proffered chair was one suitable for him. The following extract from the Presbytery's proceedings has been kindly given by Rev. Mr Murray:—"Peebles, 21st October, 1812. A letter was given in to the Presbytery from the Rev. Dr John Lee addressed to the Moderator, bearing that as he has been lately appointed to be Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Divinity in the University of St Andrews, he resigned his charge of the Church and Parish of Peebles, and requested the Presbytery to accept his resignation. The Presbytery, having read and considered this letter, cannot refrain from expressing the high sentiments of regard and esteem which they entertain for Dr Lee, and the sincere regret which they feel in being deprived of the pleasure of his society and the assistance of his labours; yet as the reason which he assigns appears to them to be highly proper, they did and hereby do accept of his resignation, and appoint their clerk to furnish him with an extract of the minutes of this day." He was not long in St Andrews till he received the degree of D.D. and the offer of the Chair of Moral Philosophy in Aberdeen, which he held for a session in conjunction with his Chair at St Andrews—sending his lectures to the Granite City by post to be read by a substitute. While in St Andrews he preached in the High Church of Edinburgh on December 1, 1817, a sermon "before the Grand Lodge of Scotland, assembled to celebrate the festival of St Andrew." It

was published by desire of the Grand Lodge, and is inscribed to "His Royal Highness, George, Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom, &c.; and to the Most Worshipful Sir John Marjoribanks of Lees, M.P., and the other officers and members, by their chaplain, John Lee." The same year a posthumous sermon was published, the work of "The Rev. Robert Neil, Preacher of the Gospel," with a short memoir of his life prefixed to it, by Dr Lee. Mr Neil was, like him, a native of Stow, and received his education at "a village school in Selkirkshire"—probably Caddonfoot. At the University he was known to possess "no common turn for bold and original thinking." He was licensed in 1809, but repeated and unaccountable failures to get a church undermined his health, and he died at Burnhouse Mill, in Gala Water, on the 10th February, 1817.

The Memorial for the Bible Societies, which Dr Lee was chosen to draw up, and also his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, in 1834, are full of the rarest and most valuable information. The appendices to his "History of the Church of Scotland" form a mine of wealth for all who wish to have a knowledge of olden times. His library in Edinburgh was perhaps the largest private library in the country, and contained several most curious volumes, of which he had often the only copies extant. He knew the contents of them all, and the lives of their authors. He is the original of

'Archdeacon Meadows' in Hill Burton's charming volume "The Book Hunter." When the author once asked him if he possessed a rare publication, "Sermons to Asses," he replied that he had three copies of it; but as he could not lay his hands on them, he had told his friend Mr Stillie to buy a copy which was advertised in a catalogue of books about to be sold. He gave a full and not flattering account of Mr Brown, the author of these sermons and of two other works—"Sermons to Bishops," and "A History of England."

Dr Lee was Moderator of Assembly in 1844. While he held the office of Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, which he did from 1828 to 1859, it was invariably remitted to him to prepare any pastoral address it was deemed advisable to issue. These addresses — ten in number — are not only replete with counsel, but contain historical information of a most interesting kind; as, for example, that on "Sabbath Profanation." Those who remember the General Assembly in Dr Lee's days cannot forget—on the right hand of the Moderator's chair—the tall, slim figure, the worn features, the high forehead, the sparse grey hairs, the keen eye, and that peculiar oscillation of head which marked the venerable Principal, who, robed in his Geneva gown, wearing broad clerical bands, carefully discharged his duties. He used to twirl a quill pen in his fingers when addressing the House. His word as to Church procedure was law.

Dr Lee returned to Peebles only once to see

those of his old friends who remained. On a Sunday he occupied his former pulpit, to the great delight of the congregation. With a voice almost broken by emotion he gave out at the commencement of the service:—

"My soul is poured out in me,
When this I think upon;
Because that with the multitude
I heretofore had gone:

With them into God's house I went
With voice of joy and praise;
Yea, with the multitude that kept
The solemn holy days."

At a meeting of the Associated Societies of the University of Edinburgh, held in Queen Street Hall in 1852 or 1853, to hear the inaugural address of the late Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton (Lord Lytton) subsequent to his election as President, Principal Lee occupied the chair. Sir Edward, in the course of a brief speech, acknowledging the vote of thanks which had been passed to him with acclamation, took occasion to refer to the venerable Principal "around whose head," he said, "a thousand rays of learning coruscate." Principal Lee's addresses at the opening of the University Sessions, though delivered to inattentive, unappreciative, and somewhat turbulent, because youthful and thoughtless, audiences, were invariably marked by rare information on the subject he discussed and contained

valuable suggestions. He loved plain English, and his style never was florid and frothy. He always praised directness and simplicity in the discourses of his students, and discouraged what, in their vain imaginations, they esteemed very beautiful and captivating language. But he was a most lenient critic of youth, though more severe on those who had attained mature years.

It is said that when Dr Lee was minister of one of the city churches in Edinburgh, after he left St Andrews, his congregation consisted, to a large extent, of second-hand booksellers, who sought his patronage by attendance on his ministrations, for he was a constant and valued customer, always in search of some scarce volume or pamphlet. He was a familiar personage in the streets of Edinburgh for many a day. He had a fund, an exhaustless fund, of anecdote and humour; and though he never laughed aloud at his own or other people's jokes, there was observable a twitching of his mouth which showed that he thoroughly appreciated the amusing story, the witty repartee, or the smart hit. A colleague who was older than himself was once asked by him how his health was standing the weather. The reply was — "I never was in better health; I feel getting quite young again." "Take care," was the dry response, "that you do not get back into your second childhood." Dr Lee, by reason of the physical ailments with which latterly he was troubled, was sometimes regarded as of uncertain temper, but he

was sympathetic, simple-minded, and affectionate. Truly has it been affirmed of him — "he had no enemies."

Principal Lee died in Edinburgh at the age of 80, in the year 1859. He was a man, as has been said, of much erudition and of wide and varied information, though, to the great regret of all those who knew the stores of learning he possessed, he left no suitable monument in the shape of literary remains. He was for a long time in feeble health, and shrank from a task which involved assiduous labour, and which of necessity would have occupied a very lengthened period. Peebles may be proud of having once possessed a minister of such pre-eminence as Dr John Lee.

Mr James Ker was Provost of Peebles during a part of the time Dr Lee was minister of the parish. One of his sons was Mr John Ker, minister of Polmont, assistant chaplain to the Peeblesshire Society, a man held in universal respect and esteem; and another was Mr Robert Wightman Ker, who also became Provost of Peebles, and is still remembered by the older inhabitants. The latter's shop —which was not of the modern type—was nearly opposite the Tontine, east from that of the late Mr Hamilton, ironmonger. Provost James Ker's daughter (Mr Robert's sister) was married to Sir James Spittal, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who latterly resided in 3 Minto Street—a house still distinguished by the presence of the official lamps. There Principal Lee was a constant visitor. The

conversation between Lady Spittal and him generally, if not invariably, turned on old times in Peebles, on Peebles worthies, and on events which had occurred within their recollections at Peebles. Stories told and re-told, and told again, were always fresh. One of Lady Spittal's sons was the lamented Charles Grey Spittal, Sheriff-Substitute of Selkirkshire, whose frank disposition, genial nature, and keen sense of humour, made him a general favourite in society.

Dr Lee was succeeded in the parish of Peebles by Mr Robert Buchanan, a native of Callander, who was ordained in October 1813. He had been tutor in the family of the Earl of March, the patron, and by him was presented to the living in 1813, the year after he was licensed. It is curious to note that Mr John Hay, Mr William Dalgleish, Dr John Lee, and Mr Buchanan were all inexperienced men when they were placed in this parochial charge. Dr Lee, indeed, had been a few months, but only a few, minister of a Presbyterian Church in London.

As illustrating the desire which was then felt to give a new parish minister a cordial welcome, the following letter may be quoted. It is addressed to Mr Williamson, in Peebles, by Mr John Hay, Kingsmeadows, who happened to be in Edinburgh :—

EDINBURGH, 1st June 1813.

I have received yours of date 30th ult. this moment, and return you sincere thanks for this mark of attention. My

father and self are most anxious to join the Magistrates and gentlemen of the Presbytery in shewing every mark of respect to Mr Buchanan to which his high character entitles him. We have to regret that our ignorance of this ceremony [the signing of the call] has prevented us coming forward voluntarily, but trust that our doing so now will prove a sufficient apology. My father and I propose being at Kingsmeadows on Saturday, and hope that day will not be too late to sign the call. Should it take place in course of this week I beg you will act as proxy for my father and myself, expressing to Mr Buchanan our regret at being unavoidably absent. Many thanks to you for this friendly communication.

(It is known that so late as 1826 Mr John Hay was the elder returned to the General Assembly from the burgh, in which office he succeeded Mr Thomas Cranston, W.S., who for a great many years was regularly returned.)

During Mr Buchanan's time, and probably at the commencement of his successor's (Mr Elliot) incumbency, "tent preaching" at the Communion was maintained. Part of the service was conducted in the Parish Church, and part in the tent which, in latter days, was placed on Tweed Green. This tent was a kind of wooden box, with a book-board on which the Bible was laid. There was generally a great gathering, for people came even from neighbouring parishes—much to the extent still witnessed in some parts of the Highlands. The minister was assisted by various brethren of the Presbytery (whose churches were closed on that day), or by friends from a distance. The most attractive preacher had, of course, the largest congregation.

Mr Campbell of Traquair was then in the zenith of his fame as an orator, and crowds always assembled whenever it was known that he was to officiate. Once, on a Communion Sunday, it was rumoured that he was to preach in the Church at a certain hour, and a venerable co-Presbyter, who was not highly appreciated in the pulpit, was to be in the tent. Numbers accordingly flocked to the Church. To their surprise and horror the wrong man appeared. With one consent the congregation rose and left the Church, and hurried down to their favourite, who was on the Green. Two or three, however, profoundly ashamed of the conduct of the others, remained behind to worship with Mr ——. This old gentleman was wont, when he came to officiate in Peebles, to visit an elderly lady in the town; and if he observed that she had not been in her usual pew when he was in the pulpit, he insisted on reading his discourse to her, and getting her opinion then and there — an opinion she was sometimes reluctant to give, at least conscientiously. In the Session Records of the last century, two shillings and sometimes a half-crown are ordered for the "precentor in the kirkyaird" at the Communion. So the tent must have been formerly beside the Cross Kirk before it was taken to Tweed Green.

Mr Buchanan was a popular preacher, and much esteemed by the people. He is still remembered by some of the older inhabitants. He was highly

cultivated, and was a poet, as well as a logician. Some of his poems may yet be obtained from Glasgow booksellers. It is recorded in the "Memoranda" of the "Gutterbluid Minute Book" that on Monday, 4th October 1824, "Rev. Robert Buchanan preached his last sermon here in the Town Hall, being the day for the election of Magistrates and Council." This was a peculiar proceeding, and whether it had anything to do with the municipal authorities cannot be explained. He died in 1873, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. During the time he was minister of Peebles, Robert Elder, stockingweaver, was precentor. Probably George Donaldson had been Elder's predecessor in Dr Lee's ministry.

It was during Mr Buchanan's incumbency that the Battle of Waterloo was fought; and the manner in which the news was received in Peebles has been told to the author by the late Provost Stirling, who, with a number of companions, was bathing in Eddleston Water, when attention was attracted to the "Fly," coming along the Edinburgh road, gaily decked with flags. As it passed slowly up the Northgate, the people rushed out of their houses to learn the tidings, and a crowd gathered in High Street to cheer vociferously. Peebles was infected by the national enthusiasm, and general rejoicings were held. It is now eighty years since this happened, and only a very few remain in the ancient burgh who can recall the scene. Those who may do so were then children; not one of the

principal actors in the festivities survives; and not one of the speeches, in which "Bonyparty," as he was popularly called, was frequently referred to, has been preserved. Nothing would be more interesting to a Peeblean than a glimpse of that crowd in the High Street, on the bright, warm, June afternoon—a vision for a moment of the local "worthies" who assembled to congratulate each other on the triumph of the British army, and to read from the newspapers the meagre details of the fight, the doings of the "Prooshians," and the flight of Napoleon. The bells in the steeple were ordered to ring out a merry peal, and nothing else was spoken of but the field of Waterloo. A good many people still remember one inhabitant, who was generally believed to have been a Waterloo hero, and who, when he was in official attire, wore a medal on his breast—Sandy Cleghorn, or, as he was sometimes unceremoniously styled, "Cleggy." He resided, at one period of his retirement from active duty, in the close east from Mr Robert Ballantyne's (the flesher) shop, which, as has been said, was once Mungo Park's surgery. When "Drummer Rob," who succeeded "Drummer Wull," ceased to beat his drum, Sandy was appointed to the vacant situation. He had also, in winter, authority over the pond in Ringan's Haugh, and his duty was to keep it clear of juvenile skaters and sliders, who might destroy the ice for the curlers' rinks. Until rheumatism interfered with his swiftness of foot, he had many a good chase

after trespassers, although the very appearance of his short, stout figure, and the distant sound of his deep bass voice, were frequently the means of saving him the trouble of active pursuit of the delinquents. His performances on the drum were not at all equal to those of "Drummer Rob," for they did not give evidence of the possession of a musical ear, and consisted solely of a constant and somewhat monotonous repetition of "rat-a-tat-rat-a-tat." When there was no other means of conveying information to the public the "drum" was very effectual, for whenever it was heard at the top of the High Street, people at the Eastgate end awaited its approach with eager interest, and were prepared to listen to the announcement made. The first stage for the drummer in the "New Town" was in front of the church; the next was at the head of the Northgate; the third was at the East Port; thence he marched down the Northgate, and so on. At each stage a halt was made, the drum was beaten, and the advertisement repeated. It might be a "roup;" it might be a warning to trespassers that they would "be prosecuted as the law direcks;" it might be that some individual had lost something; but on Saturday evenings, with a regularity which never was broken in upon, it was "that hot penny and tippenny pies" were to be procured at a certain shop in the Old Town. Both "Rob" and "Cleggy" used the same pronunciation for the word which attracted the attention of the public—"Nottis." There was another

institution. The bell of the steeple was from time immemorial rung at stated hours. And we learn from Mr Renwick's Burgh Records that the bagpipes were also blown by John Layng, who "daylie and ilk day, at four houris at morn and aucht at even, must play through the toune with his grit pipe till Martinmas 1635." The old drum was frequently repaired, and in 1631 a new drum bought, the cost being £11. In 1634 "the pypar and drummer got 40s for going about the Commons, and the Edinburgh drummer, Manasses Hamilton, 58s, for playing at the Beltane games. John Layng, pipar, and Charles Cleg, drummer, got wages and shoes till the latter article was forbidden." Thus it will be seen that the drum, the bagpipes, and the bell are of ancient date in Peebles. The first was greatly valued before printing and advertising became popular. The Walkers and other subordinate contemporary burgh officials have long since passed away; but only recently have the stalwart form and the dark visage of "Jock Bell" ceased to be familiar on the streets of Peebles.

In 1816 there was a contest for the Clerkship to the Convention of Royal Burghs, and Mr Carlyle Bell, W.S., was a candidate; Mr Thomas Walker being his opponent. Mr Bell was apparently supported by some of the Councillors, for he says on 7th June, 1816:—"I have this day a letter from Bailie Brown, which encourages me to hope that the Provost's mind is made up to support me."

A letter from Mr James Little, W.S., Edinburgh,

who has already been referred to, brings back to our minds the mode of conveyance at that time between Peebles and Edinburgh:—

Edinburgh, 30th May, 1816.

My dear Sir,—I am to be in Eddleston Manse on Saturday forenoon, where I shall remain till Monday morning. Please send a chaise to Eddleston on that day by ten o'clock, to carry me to Peebles, and if you are to be alone at dinner, I shall take my chance with you. I shall require the chaise in the evening to bring me back to Eddleston, which will save the change of a bed. You will also oblige me by taking a seat in the Tuesday's Fly, to be taken up at Dr Robertson's. As I take a post chaise on Saturday, and Mrs Murray goes with me and returns in the evening, if any of your personal friends wish for a conveyance to Edinburgh, let them be at the Manse by six o'clock in the evening, when Mrs Murray will be glad to see them and travel with them to Edinburgh.

Thus about eighty years ago the "retour chaise" was a coveted vehicle, as it saved the expense of 10s 6d in the "Fly."

On 25th December, 1824, there was a flood in the Tweed beyond any one remembered by the oldest inhabitant, indeed exceeding that of 1811.

On 25th April, 1825, Charles Frederick Mackenzie was born at Portmore. His father, Colin Mackenzie, Deputy-Keeper of the Signet, inherited the property from his father, who had purchased it from the Earl of Portmore. The eldest son was William Forbes Mackenzie, for many years M.P. for Peeblesshire, and for a short time M.P. for Liverpool. Charles was the youngest son, and was five years

old when his father died. He was educated at the Grange School, Sunderland, whence he went to Cambridge. He is said to have been from his youth distinguished by singular guilelessness, simplicity of character, scrupulous conscientiousness, and a high spiritual tone. He was a splendid mathematician, became Second Wrangler, and a Fellow of his College. He early devoted himself to good works, was appointed curate of Hasingfield, near Cambridge, and laboured faithfully in his calling. He had been much impressed by the addresses of David Livingstone, that great pioneer of South African missions; the impression was deepened by the sermons of the saintly Bishop Selwyn, of New Zealand, and he resolved to become a missionary. His invalid sister and he arrived at Natal, and, as Archdeacon, he settled at Durban till he went forth to evangelise the Kaffirs. His labours were excessive, and his health suffered. But he returned from a visit to England in 1860, and was consecrated Bishop at Capetown in the following year. He proceeded to the Zambesi to meet Livingstone, and then the work began which has linked these two names together. It is impossible to give a detailed account of the trials which were endured, of the dangers to which the party were exposed, and of the heroic actions performed. These are recorded in Bishop Mackenzie's biography. He was seized with fever, and died in presence of his faithful Makololo followers. Livingstone was much affected when the sad news was brought to him. His

biographer says, "If there was any Christian deed to be done, any work of mercy to be performed, either for the bodies or souls of men, then Mackenzie's whole heart was engaged. To go about doing good was the only employment which he thoroughly and unreservedly loved."

It would be an unwarrantable omission to leave out the name of such a man — so single-minded, devoted, and true—from a notice of those who are connected with Peebles.

For many years Mr Stalker was minister of a "meeting-house," as it was then styled, in the Northgate, and had a fair congregation. He, however, left Peebles about 1828 or 1830, and went to America.

Among the well-known and prominent inhabitants of Peebles who died about this period were:—Mr Bertram, writer, on 11th June 1825; Provost Ker, 5th February 1826; and Alexander Murray Bertram of Templebar, at Langside House, 7th June 1827.

On Mr Buchanan's removal to Glasgow, Mr John Elliot — who had been licensed by the Presbytery of Dalkeith in 1818 — was presented by the Earl of Wemyss, and ordained in March, 1825; Mr Campbell, of Traquair, preaching and presiding. There was some demur, if not opposition, to his settlement, as it was supposed he was not quite fitted to occupy the place filled by his eminent predecessor. Accordingly, Mr Adam, then minister of the Secession Church at the "Gytes," drew several away from the Parish

Church, for Mr Elliot's sermons, which were well composed and not destitute of ability, were described as being "Moderate." The vestry was the "single-roomed" house which stood within the gate, but apart from the church, and was used by the Session as well as the Presbytery. The little room was hardly of sufficient size to accommodate the twelve ministers who composed the ecclesiastical court, and for a good many years after 1860 one of the larger rooms in the Tontine was used for meetings. The hall in connection with the new Parish Church has now been placed at the disposal of the Presbytery.

Mr Elliot never donned a clerical gown, though he generally wore bands. On Sundays he walked from the session-house to the entrance lobby, spoke a word to the elders at the plate, which was placed on the left hand, close by the door opening into Rosetta pew, usually occupied by Sheriff Burnett and his two maids, but in which, latterly, Mr Blackwood and his family sat; he then put down his hat inside the second door—on the short board where stood the collection box into which the money was placed previous to its being counted after service in the session-house—gave his white hair a brush with his hands, proceeded to the pulpit stair, and was "shut in" by James Ker, the beadle, who on cold mornings always had his shepherd tartan plaid flung across his shoulders.

On 4th March 1827, a snowstorm of unprecedented severity set in, and there was no service in the Parish

Church, a thing which was considered remarkable. The storm was so prolonged that Fastern's E'en fair was postponed. This was the year following what is known as the "drouthy year," when the corn was so short that it could not be cut with the sickle, but had to be pulled by the hand.

The successive precentors in the Parish Church were, as far as can be ascertained, Vicar Donaldson already mentioned; Robert Elder; Henry Simpson, mason, who "held the dask" for a number of years; John Baptie, who is still alive; John Flannigan, weaver; James Ker, tailor; "Tam" Walker, shoemaker; Murray, labourer; Howieson, cartwright at Haystoun; Scott, teacher of music; Robert Wilson, Crosshouses, Manor; James Ker again; and Archibald Watson, ploughman, Bonnington, now a gardener in Peebles, who had been precentor in Tweedsmuir, and became precentor to Rev. Mr Thomson in the Relief Church.

In the "Gytes" or East U.P. Church, Peter Rodgers was precentor during Rev. Mr Adam's ministry. He was a blacksmith resident at the cottages on Glenormiston estate: a poet as well as a musician, and well known and respected by the whole neighbourhood. He was succeeded by William Moffat, a weaver; and, after an interval in which a stranger officiated, by William Walker, shoemaker, High Street. But Peter was leader of the psalmody through all Mr Adam's time.

On one occasion, when Mr Elliot was beginning his discourse, a tap was heard at the door of the

Church. "Jeems," as the minister called him, sallied forth from his pew on the left hand of the pulpit to ascertain the cause. He returned and silently beckoned to a person in the area, who went out. A moment or two afterwards came another tap, and in like manner another hearer was summoned. Shortly thereafter a third was called: whereupon the congregation rose *en masse* and left the church in a rapid and most unceremonious manner. James went up to the pulpit and whispered something to Mr Elliot, who brought the service to an abrupt conclusion, and intimated that there would be no afternoon diet of worship. It appeared that a fire had broken out in a bake-house or some other establishment in the High Street, and all hands were required to give what help was possible in subduing the flames. Next Sunday morning Mr Elliot announced that he would preach the sermon in the delivery of which he had been interrupted, and he mentioned that he had written a new preface to it.

The Communion services both in Mr Elliot's and in Dr Monilaws' time were somewhat protracted, especially in Mr Elliot's. But in the days of their predecessors there were wont to be eleven "tables," which with the evening service occupied the whole day from ten o'clock. Mr Elliot occasionally announced that public worship would begin at 10.30 instead of 11 A.M., and there would be four tables. Great decorum pervaded the whole proceedings. The singing of the

103d Psalm to the tune "Coleshill," with the line read out, had a strange and solemnising effect, as the "tables" slowly emptied and filled—the communicants coming in from the pews on the one side, and leaving by the back door on the other. There were, of course, two assistant ministers at the dispensation—very often Mr Edgar of Stobo and Dr Robertson of Eddleston—the latter of whom preached in the evening, invariably commencing with the 58th Paraphrase. The "days" were all kept up—with two services on the Fast-day, one on Saturday, and one on Monday—when, latterly, Mr Taylor of Drummelzier officiated. The Fast-day was at one time faithfully observed. All the shops were closed; there were no railway trains to carry away holiday-makers, and few—even of the young people—absented themselves from church. On the Saturdays and Mondays the shops were shut during the time of service, and even on those days there were large congregations. "Cards" for members were unknown, "tokens" were used, as they had been from a very early period. We find that in 1764 the Session found that the old tokens used up to that date had gradually disappeared, and there was not a sufficient supply; therefore they remitted to the Moderator, Mr Dalgleish, to get a new mould and new tokens. These were in circulation till very recently.

The "Gas House," at the west of the bowling green, was built in 1829, and a new era dawned on Peebles. In December the town was lit with

gas. In order to get a supply of water, the cauld in the Tweed, for driving the Corn Mills, was formed. The first market for selling and buying grain was held in the Town Hall on 30th November 1830, when about 300 bags were exposed for sale, and the first hiring fair was established on 11th October 1831.

In 1829 the Relief Church, now the West United Presbyterian Church, was built. The favourite candidate, after its erection and when the congregation was prepared to call a minister, was Mr James Smith. He came and preached, and the people were delighted with him. They wished him at once to signify his acceptance. But he had three invitations at the same time, and though he had a strong inclination to close with the offer of Peebles, he at length declined it for Campbeltown. During his stay in that town a controversy arose in the Relief body about Voluntaryism. He held strongly the principle of Church Establishments, which he maintained was recognised by the Relief Synod, and he refused to leave the church and manse to the majority of the body, who had opposite views. It was a long and a stormy controversy that ensued. The case was carried to the Court of Session, where it was decided against him. His friends, Mr Alexander Murray Dunlop, Mr Candlish, and others, wished to appeal to the House of Lords, but he refused to go farther; he left the Relief body, became a minister of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow, was presented to the parish of

Borthwick, and afterwards to that of Kelso. He returned to Peebles after he was settled in Kelso, to see the place where his lot might have been cast, and any old friends who survived; but the sole remaining one with whom he came into contact was the late Provost Paterson, ironmonger, who at once recognised him and remembered his candidature. Mr Alexander Thomson was eventually chosen, and continued to his death in the Relief Church. He was a man universally respected, and acquired considerable influence by his upright character and genuine worth. Mr Thomson was ordained on the 30th September 1829, and died on 13th March 1881. His son, the Rev. William Thomson, was minister of a well known U. P. Church in Glasgow, and died many years ago. In April 1876 the Rev. D. Y. Currie was ordained as Mr Thomson's colleague and successor. The old church is now disused, and a new one was erected two or three years ago.

In 1836 the Episcopal Church was built, the first incumbent being the Rev. Mr Mortimer, who officiated in the Ball-room from September 1828. He was not long in Peebles, but he was often spoken of as a general favourite. The congregation, though small, numbered several of the county families resident in the neighbourhood, and a few in the town. Lady Anne Hay of Kingsmeadows, the Burnetts of Barns, the Montgomerys of Stobo, and some others became members at the time of its erection. Mr Robert Duncan Douglas, writer, and

Captain Burnett were two of the managers. An organ was introduced; and the organist for many years was Robert Stoddart, familiarly known as "Bob Stothart."

Mr Bliss succeeded Mr Mortimer as incumbent of the Episcopal Church. He was a good, simple, earnest man, and exercised a most beneficial influence over the large number of boarders he had under his care in Queensberry House.

"Jamie Hall" was letter-carrier before the penny post was introduced, and for some time afterwards. He was succeeded by Andrew Stavert, who had, in late years, charge of the Reading-room, which was opened in the room behind the Town Hall. The Post Office for a long period was in the Briggate. It was a pretty house, covered with roses and creepers, the entrance to it being through a small but luxuriant garden. By a slit in the door, the letters were popped into the receiving box, to be duly dispatched in the mail gig to Edinburgh. The office was under the charge of Mrs Williamson, widow of Dr Williamson, who is alluded to in a subsequent chapter. Her father was Mr Cairns, writer in Peebles, and her husband belonged to the well known family of the Williamsons of Noblehouse.

About 1825 the British Linen Company opened a branch bank in Peebles, of which Mr John Welsh, W.S., was made agent. He belonged to the family of Mossfennan, and was much respected as an excellent man of business, and highly esteemed as a pleasant companion in society. He had a warm

heart, was full of dry humour, and greatly addicted to punning. As frequently happens, some of his puns were not very good, but many of them were repeated from mouth to mouth as "Mr Welsh's last." The Bank was in the Northgate, removed from the street a little distance, with a shrubbery and trees before the door. The office on the south side was a later addition to the house. The garden behind was large and luxuriant, while the coach-house and stables, &c., were on the north side. Now, the Bank is in the High Street, close to the Tontine Hotel—in the house, enlarged and improved, which was occupied for a long time by Mr Hume the baker, and before his day by Dr Williamson. Mr Welsh died on the 8th June 1843, deeply regretted.

It was on 7th September 1838, that Mr Arthur Burnett came to Peebles as Sheriff-Substitute in room of "Adgy" Burton. Mr Burnett was one of the Monboddo family, and possessed a picture of "Burns' fair Burnett." He lived in Minden for many years, then bought a park on the opposite side of the Kerfield road, and built a handsome house, the approach to which was by a long avenue. "The Shirra," as he was commonly called, soon became universally popular. He was a welcome visitor at houses both in the town and county, and was always the life of a company. His fund of anecdote, his bright and lively manner, his sallies of wit, his songs—especially "Comin' thro' the rye," which he was

always willing to contribute, though not endowed with great musical gifts — his genial disposition, readiness to do anything in his power for the happiness of those around him, his sterling qualities, and his liberality, procured for him the sincere esteem of all. On the bench he was a most painstaking judge, and studied his decisions with the greatest care. Even the prisoners whom he had occasion to condemn bore him no grudge. He was a keen curler, and not unfrequently one of a rink which included some unfortunate poacher or other offender on whom he had imposed fine or imprisonment. But on the ice all men are equal. It was not rare to see the quondam prisoner laying down his brush at the tee end of the rink to guide the "Shirra," who was about to throw his stone from the other end, and to hear the voice excitedly shouting— "Shirra, d'ye see this yin? Weel, gi'e it therty days." Mr Burnett was also a sportsman, and was generally out on the 12th if that was not a Court day. From the balls, which occasionally were held in the Tontine, and from the dinners of the Tweeddale Shooting Club, as well as from any public entertainments, Mr Burnett was seldom absent. His private dinner parties were restricted to six gentlemen, including himself, in order that the conversation might be general. No one who had the privilege of being present at these pleasant little gatherings can soon forget them. When the infirmities of age began to tell upon him, he was forced to curtail his walks across the

hills, which he had loved to traverse with genial companions, and gradually to slip out of many former occupations. But he never ceased to take delight in his garden, his flowers and vegetables. His death was widely mourned, and by general consent it was affirmed, "we shall never see his like again."

He was succeeded by Sheriff Hunter, son of his old friend Mr John Hunter, St Andrews, a man in not a few respects like himself, and whose lively nature made him also a favourite in the community. He died at an early age. Sheriff Orphoot succeeded, and now discharges the duties of the office both in Edinburgh and in Peebles, under the new arrangement whereby the sheriffdoms are united.

Croall, with great enterprise, had started coaches, made for 16 "outsides" and 4 "insides," on several roads from Edinburgh to important places, and he gradually extended his operations over the whole of Scotland. Shortly afterwards Mr Campbell, in Edinburgh, entered into competition with opposition coaches, with the view of running Croall "off the highways," and one was eventually destined for Peebles. Before the competition began, Croall's "Fair Trader," the driver of which latterly was Willie Hogg, left alternately Durward's Crown Inn, and Bailie Fraser's shop in the High Street, almost opposite the Commercial Inn. And a common sight was Mrs Durward, with her cheerful face and happy smile, spectacles on her nose

and white cap on her head, marching into the Bailie's premises, on his day, with the way-bill in her hand, and her merry laugh was heard as she cracked a joke with her friend. The opposition headquarters were at the "Tontine." The name of Campbell's coach was the "Surprise," and Andrew Kinross was the driver. It was not largely patronised, and was soon given up. But starting at the same time, the two coaches were wont to race into town, to the alarm of the passengers. One day the solitary occupant of the "Surprise" was Miss Donnan, an elderly lady from Galloway, who lived with Mr Sloane for several years. She became agitated and nervous at the reckless speed with which she was being hastened on her journey, and knowing there was no one else, besides herself, in the vehicle, put her head out of the window and cried in trepidation, "Andrew, Andrew, I'm in no hurry!" An accident, which eventually proved fatal to Andrew, happened as he was careering down Liberton Brae; the coach was upset, and he was thrown into a ditch and severely injured. Willie Hogg had an accident also at a new cutting of the Edinburgh road near Winkston. It was on a summer evening, and as the coach did not pass up the Northgate at the usual hour, alarm at the delay was everywhere felt. As time went on, and it did not appear, fears were expressed for its safety. On this occasion one or two passengers were injured, but not fatally. After a change of horses and a short rest for the passengers, the coaches went on to

Innerleithen, which they left in the morning on the return journey. Willie had for a season or more a rather restive horse to drive—there were only two, except at rare times when the roads were heavy with snow. This horse was called Birlie, and a gathering, especially of youngsters, assembled at the "Tontine" to see the "row" on starting, and considerable disappointment was felt if Birlie went away quietly. Willie, after the railway was opened, was compelled to cease his occupation. Unfortunately, he was thrown from a machine which he was driving to Innerleithen, and was so much hurt that he never recovered.

Few of the young people who now frequent Tweed Green probably ever heard that its appearance at one time was different from what it is now. They scamper across a level plain, which, generations ago, to the eyes of juveniles, seemed like a vast verdant prairie broken up by heights and hollows. For on the eastern side—that which was recognised as specially appropriated to the amusements of the boys of the Grammar School—there was a "high green" and a "low green." A narrow footpath ran diagonally through them both, from the foot of the School Brae to the corner of the house in which lived, in recent times, Mr Blyth and his family; and the ascent of this path from the low to the high green was perforated with holes for "bools." It was considered an unwarrantable interference by the authorities when the green was levelled, and the youthful mind did not regard it as an improvement.

The western side, or that which was rigidly claimed by the Burgh School boys, was also unequal, but in process of time the whole has become a level sward. On the west, from time immemorial, "shows" were allowed to take up a position; and a ring was made by Mr Ord and his equestrian company, when they came to display their wonderful feats of horsemanship. Ord was a highly respectable man, the son of a parish minister in one of the Border counties, and his advent was always hailed with enthusiasm in Peebles. His feats were considered unrivalled, and the constantly repeated jokes of the "fool," generally conveyed in questions addressed to "Mister Master," never failed to excite universal and uproarious hilarity. Ord, during his stay in Peebles—as in other places—never omitted regular attendance at the Parish Church, and sent his children to school, that they might take advantage of every opportunity of acquiring knowledge. One thing which he invariably also did, was to leave a sum of money for distribution among the poor. A son of the Manse, he early took to the business in which he became famous, and, as far as ever has been heard, he led a blameless life. He died in old age, and was buried in the churchyard of Biggar, where he had caused a square tomb to be erected to receive his remains.

The Rev. Thomas Adam has been mentioned as minister of the Secession Church in succession to Mr Leckie. In his later years he was a venerable-

looking man, and was always an attractive preacher and faithful pastor. He had a large family, and the surviving members still retain a warm attachment to their native place. One of his elders was Mr Middlemass, farmer at Crookston, who lived to a very old age. He was a most respected man, and had "sat under" each minister of that church till his death not long ago. One of his sons began life as apprentice to Mr Hume, baker, High Street, and has now the large and flourishing business known as "R. Middlemass & Son, bakers and confectioners, Edinburgh." Mr R. Middlemass bought recently the old manse, when the new one on Kerfield Road was purchased by the heritors. He thoroughly repaired and enlarged it, and it is now called by him "Lee Lodge." Mr Adam's successor in the ministry of the Secession Church was the Rev. J. W. Semple, a native of Stranraer. Mr Semple was a fluent and popular preacher, and always in great request for soirees —which were then, however, rarer than now—and for lectures. When he left, Mr Robert Angus was chosen. He was elder son of the Rev. Henry Angus, Aberdeen, an eminent divine, held in universal esteem for his talents, his catholic spirit, and his charity towards those who differed from him. He frequently officiated for his son, and on such occasions the church was always crowded. His fine figure, benevolent countenance, and commanding appearance are still remembered in Peebles. It has been truly said, "the first look at him

gave one the impression that he was no common man." He was born in 1794, and died in 1860. In a memoir published by his son it is incidentally stated that in 1816 "there was no way of travelling with anything like comfort and certainty from Edinburgh to Aberdeen, except by a coach, which then left Princes Street at 9 A.M., and was advertised to reach Aberdeen at 6 A.M. on the morning of the following day. When we take into account the high fares, the midnight exposure, the guards and coachman to be *remembered*, the breakfasts and dinners to be paid for," we can easily believe, what Mr Angus often told, that his first journey along that road in a public conveyance "cost him more than five pounds!" Mr Robert Angus soon became very popular in the town; his cultivated taste, extensive reading, and gentle, pleasant disposition recommended him to all classes. He was ever a welcome guest, and his society was much sought after. A faithful pastor, he ministered to an attached flock. When a fatal disease laid its hand on him he was compelled to seek a change of climate, and during his absence his pulpit was supplied by members of the Presbytery of Peebles, as well as by ministers of his own denomination. His early death was sincerely mourned. His brother, Dr Henry Angus, is a United Presbyterian minister in Arbroath. The present incumbent, Rev. R. Burgess, was ordained in 1868. It was in 1877 that the handsome "Leckie Memorial" church was built, and the old building was sold.

The Free Church was erected shortly after 1843. When the memorable secession took place a considerable number of members of the Parish Church deemed it their duty to cast in their lot with Dr Chalmers and those who left the Church of Scotland. Rev. W. Wallace Duncan, who had been minister of Cleish, preached in what was once Mr Stalker's meeting-house in the Northgate, and was chosen by the congregation. Mr Duncan was the son of the Rev. Dr Duncan, of Ruthwell, founder of the savings banks, and was for many years minister in Peebles. He was most assiduous in the discharge of his duties. His first wife was Mary Lundie, well known for her little publications in verse; and he was connected with the Lundies and Bonars who occupied prominent positions in the Free Church. His second wife was a daughter of the Rev. Professor Hill, of Glasgow. He was succeeded by Rev. Mr MacGregor, who was afterwards translated to Glasgow. The church was originally in the School Brae, and is now the Good Templar Hall. A new church was erected some years ago in the Eastgate. The whole appearance of that quarter of the town has been changed within the last twenty-five years.

Of "Old Q," as he was universally called, a brief notice may be given. He was long one of the leaders of fashion, and he acquired an unenviable

notoriety by the unblushing manner in which he practised his vices. His long life was a career of selfishness and profligacy. Thackeray mentions him by name in *The Virginians* as a lover of gambling, horse-racing, and as a *roué*. In some other works of fiction he is represented under a thinly disguised cognomen as a devoted libertine. As such he will be remembered—not as a statesman, a musician, or a patron of art. Yet he held responsible Government appointments in the reign of George III.; he was by no means a contemptible musical critic; and he was fond of painting and sculpture.

This nobleman was born in Queensberry House (now the Chambers Institution) on 16th December, 1725, and his cradle was for a considerable time preserved among the curiosities in Neidpath Castle. His father was William, second Earl of March—an excellent, affable, popular man; on friendly terms with all his humbler neighbours in the town and county. His chief residence was Neidpath, where he delighted to spend much of the summer. Chambers mentions that "one day in riding through the Old Town on his way to Edinburgh he was addressed by one of his gossips, an old woman who happened to be standing at her door, 'When are ye comin' back, my lord?' 'Gane Friday, Eppie,' was the reply. On Friday the Earl was brought back a corpse." He had died at Barnton, suddenly, on 7th March, 1731. The youthful Earl, then six years of age, was entrusted to the guardianship of his uncle, the Honourable John Douglas of

Broughton, M.P. for the County from 1722 to 1732, in which latter year he died. Thus he had not long to attend to the upbringing of his ward, who was then handed over to the third Duke of Queensberry, Charles, a cousin of his charge. The "Good Duke," as he was styled, was a benevolent man, liberal in his dealings, kind-hearted, and esteemed by those connected with his large estates. He probably allowed the youthful Earl too much of his own way, and forgot the warning of the wise man, "he that spareth the rod hateth the child." From the quietness and monotony of a rural retreat, March went to Edinburgh, where he had abundant opportunity of indulging some of the propensities which as a youth he had already begun to manifest. Though not destitute of ability, he had no ambition to gain reputation as a scholar. The turf became his sphere of operation. A volume entitled *Old Q.*, by John Robert Robinson (Sampson, Low, & Co., London), has very recently been published, and gives some account of the proceedings of the Earl in connection with his congenial occupation. Though admitted into gambling circles in Edinburgh, he found the Scottish metropolis too small for his energies, and went to London about 1746, when he was almost twenty-one years of age. Endowed with good features, a handsome person, great wealth, and the heir of vast property, he soon had the *entreé* into the highest society. In 1748 he received the Earldom of Ruglen in addition to that of March, with estates in Mid-Lothian and

Linlithgowshire. Mr Robinson, though indebted to Robert Chambers' *Traditions of Edinburgh* for several of the anecdotes in his book, yet contributes much information, specially interesting to the sporting world, about the Earl's racing transactions, the doings at Newmarket, the jockeys who were in his employment, the terms of their engagements, the names and pedigrees of his horses, and the sums of money he lost or won. He narrates the story of the carriage match, with which London and the provinces rang for many a day. It took place in 1749. The idea was to build a vehicle to be drawn by four horses, and to carry only one man; the total weight was not to be above two and a half hundredweight, inclusive of harness and other equipments, and it was to cover nineteen miles in one hour! Much time was consumed in obtaining a suitable vehicle, in arranging about the horses, and in training them. Several fine animals, it appears, died in course of their "education." Bets were of course heavy; the whole thing had originated in a bet. But at length the match came off, and was gained within the allotted time! "The outcome was of more importance to Lord March than its monetary value, as it at once raised him to a position of authority in racing matters which he retained for fifty years." In 1752 the Earl took possession of the house in Piccadilly which, with its balcony, afterwards became so famous. In ten years he grew tired of it and removed to Marylebone, then becoming a fashionable locality. In 1775 he

vacated the office of Vice-Admiral of Scotland, which he had held for a brief period, for that of First Lord of Police; to which he was nominated by the Government, and from which he retired at its abolition in 1782. In 1778 he succeeded to the Dukedom of Queensberry, and on his death the title passed to the family of Buccleuch. He paid a visit to Scotland immediately after his succession, and his sojourn in Drumlanrig Castle was marked by painful changes in the management of the estates—changes which caused the public to institute a comparison between the old and new regime, most unfavourable to the latter. He altered "certain old-fashioned but kind-hearted ways the good old Duke had devised. Perhaps the most callous alteration he effected was turning out and selling several of his cousin's old equine pensioners, who had been superannuated in the domains of Drumlanrig, where, well housed and fed in winter, and with untethered liberty in summer, this good, kind-hearted Duke let his old horses live their natural lives; nor on any account would he permit one to be sold or killed. His successor looked on one of man's 'best friends' with a very different eye. A horse to him seems to have been merely a quadruped, *plus* its money-earning power. Therefore, seeing a portion of the park at Drumlanrig dotted with his deceased cousin's old coach and other horses enjoying well-earned repose, he looked on them as so much capital lying idle. To order

his factor to turn these poor brutes into money were words of small moment to his grace, but of inculcable suffering to the poor animals, who, after having been dispersed at auction, were seen dragging overladen carts until death put an end to their half-starved and other miseries." Such is Mr Robinson's description of the result of the Duke's inspection of Drumlanrig, a description which he takes from Robert Chambers, and he also recites the means he took to "sweat" his estates in Scotland; one of these being, as every one knows, the demolition of timber. "The wholesale stripping of his lands of centuries of growth was neither more nor less than greedy vandalism." The indignant protest of Wordsworth in regard to the devastation made in the grounds of Neidpath Castle has been already quoted, and Burns bewailed the desolation of the woods about Drumlanrig thus:—

"Alas, said I, what ruefu' chance
Has twined ye o' your stately trees?
Has laid your rocky bosom bare?
Has stripped the cleeding o' your braes?
Was it the bitter eastern blast
That scatters blight in early Spring?
Or was 't the wil'-fire scorched their boughs?
Or cankerworm wi' secret sting?"

"'Nae eastlan' blast,' the sprite replied—
It blew na' here sae fierce and fell;
And on my dry and halesome banks
Nae cankerworms get leave to dwell.

'Man! cruel man!' the genius sigh'd,
As through the cliffs he sank him down;
'The worm that gnaw'd my bonnie trees—
That reptile wears a ducal crown!'"

The life of this profligate nobleman came to an end on the 23rd December, 1810—"last male descendant of the cadet branch of the noble House of Douglas." Mr Robinson writes his epitaph thus—"William, fourth Duke of Queensberry, will ever stand conspicuous in the annals of this country as one who reached the height of notoriety without having done more than one single act worthy of a nation's praise. The much vaunted contributions to 'the Patriotic Fund' excepted, nothing remains." His many great vices were unredeemed by very few virtues indeed. He was buried on 31st December, 1810, in a vault in the church of St James's, Piccadilly, not far from the mansion which he had made notorious during his residence in it. He kept, like some noblemen of his time, "running footmen," and "many records exist of their exploits and endurance." These heralds, or missive bearers, "wore a short silk petticoat (no breeches) kept down by a deep gold fringe." They carried "a long pole or cane, surmounted by a large silver ball containing a preparation of white wine and eggs to sustain them on a journey. 'Old Q' was very particular about the 'paces' of his footmen, and generally tried them himself with his stop watch. In his latter days he was only able to witness their per-

formance from his balcony." Among his numerous legacies were the following:—To Lady Yarmouth, £150,000; Lord Douglas, £100,000; Mr Elvigee, his French surgeon, £5000; General Sir Thomas Picton, £5000; Sir James Montgomery, £10,000; St George's Hospital, £5000.

Sir James Montgomery, Bart., Edward Bullock Douglas, and William Murray were his executors. The personalty was valued at one million sterling, and the legacy duty amounted to £120,000.

Queensberry House, Peebles, had been sold by "Old Q" to Dr Reid in 1781, about the time His Grace purchased from the Earl of Cholmondeley the mansion in Richmond which became afterwards known by the same name as the old residence in the High Street of Peebles, and the villa at Newmarket, near the racecourse, where he was so frequently a conspicuous figure. When the Duke thought he could accomplish some object, he professed attachment to his native town, but it may be believed that such attachment was not deeply rooted in a heart wherein so few amiable qualities dwelt. He wrote to the Provost in 1754, recommending Mr Murray of Philiphaugh as a candidate for the district of burghs, and concluded his letter in these words—"I daresay every man in Peebles is convinced of the particular affection I must have to the town where I was born, and every one must see that by your situation, whatever services I can do you, must in the end not only tend to my honour, but to my advantage." His conduct in regard to

Edderstoun farm, above alluded to, does not seem to indicate that his affection had increased with years. We can readily understand the tidings of "Old Q's" death causing little lamentation in the royal burgh. It appears that the soubriquet of "Old Q" was given to him because on the door of his chariot he had painted a large "Q" underneath the coronet.

CHAPTER IV.

The School Board is a very recent institution, and, whatever may be its advantages, our fathers got on very well without it. It must not be imagined that because there were no triennial elections—producing a crop of eager candidates, a brief period of intense local excitement, a spice, perhaps, of ill-feeling, much elation, irritation, and disappointment—they were indifferent to the value of education. Doubtless, they did not build spacious academies and institutions, and add thereby to the burdens borne by the ratepayers; but they took means—most effective means—to have the children in their day instructed. They were not ignorant of the compulsory clause, and the officers employed to carry it into effect were the high officials of the burgh—even the Bailies and Councillors themselves. Scotland has never been negligent in the matter of education. There were schools—at any rate in towns—prior to the Reformation, and if these were chiefly in connection with cathedrals and other religious houses, if they were mainly designed for young men who intended to prosecute studies which would fit them for clerical or high secular appoint-

ments, yet the poor were not wholly neglected. The humbler classes were taught to read. Writing was not so universally attended to. But by learning to read the people were prepared for the diffusion of that pungent, powerful, popular literature which tended so greatly to produce the change that culminated in the Reformation. Peebles had its Burgh School for ages. So far back as 1464 it was a centre of light in the county. The teacher, Sir William Blaklok, though an ecclesiastic—as his title, "Sir," points out—was elected by the "Bailies and Neighbours" to his office. So was John Doby, who was to teach singing. So was his successor, Sir Lowrans Johnson, who came in 1468; so was Sir William Tunno, as late as 1556; and so also was Master William Newdry—likewise an ecclesiastic. He, however, had a failing which brought him under the censure of his superiors, who reproved him for spending too much of his time in hunting and other sports, and consequent remissness in the discharge of his duties to the children under his care, who probably would not object when they found the door of the chamber in the Tolbooth shut, and received an intimation that the pedagogue had gone off to the hills with a gay expedition. But the Council were righteously indignant at his inattention. He was complained of also for severe punishment to "a disciple." Master John Lowes and Master Haldane were teachers in Peebles about this period. It was agreed in 1555 that a "chalmer" should be provided for the "skoill

maister" to "teche his barneis in that redis and writting Ynglis." Walter Haldane was appointed in 1558 to "teche thair grammare scoile quhile Lammas." In 1559, the "scoilmaster" was ordered "to separat the Ynglis redaris to the Tolbooth from the latinists," and "that he mak daily residence with the barnes;" and the promise is held out that if he teaches them more diligently, and they conceive more wisdom than before, the town will consider the matter. In 1568, James Crâw, schoolmaster, was dismissed. Next year David Crichton was put in prison for misdemeanour, and in 1570 was warned to leave the school; and Andrew Cranston was put in his place, "by admission of the kirk."

It is well known that at the Reformation one of the objects of John Knox was to have a school in every parish, and in his *History of the Church of Scotland* Principal Lee says:—"If the Reformers had been allowed to carry their plans into execution, a large proportion of the rents of the bishoprics would have been applied to the support of literary institutions, as well as to the due sustentation of the parochial clergy. . . . They had the best interests of learning at heart, and if their counsel and advice had been followed no country in the world would have been so well supplied with the means of extending the benefits of a liberal education to every man capable of intellectual improvement." Peebles may justly be proud of the fact that its schools have always occupied a high position. And it

may be well to give some later notices than the above.

In 1616, the "doctor," that is, the assistant teacher, was to have his "meat daily with the bairns," at the expense of the town. This looks as if there had been in that early period a feeding school for the children, and the head master was thrown into the bargain. This arrangement, which was very peculiar, lasted for twenty years; but at length, in 1638, it was discontinued, the Council raising the fees "in full satisfaction of his meat with the children in solatium." In 1625, John Dewar was "ordaned by the Bailies to pay to Mr Andro Watson, schoolmaister in Peebles, 18 pounds Scots as a modified sum for curing his brother's sore arm, and for ingredients used in the process, and for fomenting the brother's arm at sundrie times." Mr Dewar apparently considered the charge too high, and had complained to the Council. In 1629, Mr William Dikesone was appointed to the school. In 1636, the Council directed that "Wedderburne's Grammar" should be bought and delivered to the schoolmaster, conform to a resolution of the Convention of Burghs. In 1631, Mr William Mairtene was appointed to the Burgh School, with specific injunctions; but as the Council and he did not draw well together on the matter of "stipend," the agreement was ended in 1639 by the appointment of Mr Alex. Dickesone, son of the minister of Glenholm. It seems that in 1638 Mr Martin was paid for three quarters' "dewtie"—

From a Photograph by G. W. Wilson.

THE CHAMBERS INSTITUTION
(Once Queensberry House).

viz., for the summer, harvest, and winter quarters —£75; for his "chalmer maill," £9; while on the day James Forrest was admitted as "doctor" in the school, 6s 8d was paid for the latter's breakfast. Mr Forrest, for his first quarter, "meating himself," received £11, 6s 8d. The schools were invariably opened with prayer in the morning, and this is still generally continued. In 1655, the master of the Grammar School was directed to close the day's work with the reading of a chapter and singing of a psalm and prayer. This observance has long fallen into disuse. But it must be borne in mind that our forefathers insisted upon religious instruction. They held by the principle that all learning must be hallowed by the Word of God. And whatever may be the feelings of the present generation in regard to this, it cannot be denied that the prominence to which Scotland has attained has been reached by the steady adherence of those who have gone before us to the great doctrines of the Bible. Time was when the Shorter Catechism and the Book of Proverbs were bound together, and regularly and systematically taught in the schools of Scotland, and these two books moulded the character of our countrymen. The hours in which the children were engaged would not suit the luxurious habits now prevalent. We wonder what the youth of to-day would think if they were summoned to school at six o'clock in the morning, kept there till nine, brought back at ten, dismissed at twelve, recalled at two, and finally allowed to return home to learn their

lessons for next day at six o'clock in the evening. In 1649 Mr William Purdie, "brother-german" to Mr Patrick Purdie, minister of Newlands, was received and admitted schoolmaster of the "scoole of Peebles;" and he promised to the Council not to give time for play to the scholars except on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 P.M.; and to keep them hard at work on Saturdays till 2 P.M. On Sundays the "maille" scholars were to be convened and taught Scripture lessons and catechised till "the ringing of the second bell," when he should march them to the kirk. In the afternoon he was to convene them again, and "question" them on what they had heard. He was also to have the school laws set forth on a large board hung up in the school. The regulation about hours on week-days was, to some extent, in force down to the close of Mr Sloane's connection with the Grammar School. Candlemas, of course, was always a holiday, when the children brought their donations to the teacher to defray the expense of the winter's fires. There was no allowance made for a holiday on Christmas till lately, but now there is, in some educational establishments, at least a fortnight permitted for home festivities and relaxation. The summer vacation, or "vacance," in country parishes was limited to the harvest time. In Peebles it was extended to a month, or at the utmost six weeks.

It may not be uninteresting to note the numerous changes which, about the middle of the 17th century, took place in the mastership of the school. We

learn from the Town Council records that, in 1642, Thomas Crawford was interim teacher till John Baptie, "conversant at Johnstoun burne," was selected. In 1645, John Ker succeeded Robert Thriepland as "school doctour;" then came Thomas Dickesone. In 1647, Mr James Currie was appointed schoolmaster for 200 merks yearly, and 10 merks for his "chalmer maill." He was desired to "send word when two horses for carriages (luggage) be sent to him." Mr Currie had been a student in "the Colledge of Edinburgh," and, besides his salary, he was to receive "twelve pennies Scots" of quarter payment for "ilk toune bairne," and 13s 4d Scots for "ilk landwart bairne." But next year the following letter was read from him at a meeting of the Council:—"To the much honoured proveist, and bailyies, and remanent counsaillers — For as much, I, your wisdomes' servant, Mr James Currie, now knowing by experience that in regard of the dearth of eldene and other things, I am not able to leive convenientlie upone that quhich I have ordeaned to me by your wisdomes, therefore most humbly desyres your wisdomes to advise and lay doune a way how I may be helped in eldene. 2. I humblie crave your wisdomes would cause my hous maill be fully payit. 3. That the quarter payment may be augmented to 3s 4d." He then craves to be "liberat from under some of your acts" about the playhours. He wishes the bairnes to have two hours play any day except Tuesdays

and Thursdays. He does not appear to have succeeded; for, in 1649, Mr Purdie, as already mentioned, was appointed. But in 1651, the Council are again exercised by the want of a schoolmaster, and resolved to provide one against the term of Hallowmas next. Mr Andrew Watson, vicar of Peebles, was elected on the same terms as Mr James Currie, and the "chaippell bell" was ordered to be rung "everie week day at six hours in the morning, for conveaning the children to the schoole. John Newtone ordeanit to doe it, begin- and the morn." It may be here added, that on 27th May, 1633, the Town Council "appoint Wednesday next to convene the haill persones and parentes of these bairns gevin upe in role to be bund for ane yeir to the small quheill (wheel) in the hous to be erectit to lerne the young anes to spyn." In June, it was referred to the provost and the two bailies, Alexander Mure and Thomas Tweedie, to take a house for the masters and bairnes of the "lytil quheil for learning the young anes of the burgh to spyn."

In 1631, it appears the Tweed and its tributaries came down in such a flood that the schools were inundated and damaged. The school in the Briggait suffered severely. The scholars would not regret that a holiday was forced upon them when repairs were being effected, and the Council gave Thomas Lowes' son (we have mentioned Lowes already as an old Peebles family) four shillings for "laving the school, which was full of water, caused by the

flood," and twelve shillings for 200 "fail" required for the school on account of the damage caused. In 1637, "all the inhabitants of Peebles who have children fit for school are ordered to send them at once, under penalty of ten merks, conform to a roll to William Melrose;" and in 1653 "the inhabitants of the burgh promise to send their male children capable of learning to school, trade, or craft, within the next forty-eight hours, and on pain of being held liable for their future misdemeanours, the parents who can afford it paying quarterly fees. In the following year the Council undertake to execute the acts formerly made against those who neglect to send their children to school, and to uplift the penalties for the use of the teacher." In 1656 "the town officer was ordered to go through the town and cause all parents who have any male children to send them to school, within twenty-four hours, under the certification contained in the former acts." In 1688 "all children in the burgh capable of learning are commanded to go to school under pain of being liable for quarter's fees; whoever are not able to pay the fees the Magistrates shall order the master to teach them gratis." The Church, through the Session, in all country parishes, paid "schooling" of those whose parents were unable to afford the cost. For generations, and till not very long ago, it was the honest pride of every Scotchman that his child was able to read and write. But at the time mentioned the people were not so solicitous about it — for it was a period of con-

siderable turmoil. For instance, in the very year when Thomas Lowes' son was sent to repair the school, there were quarrels and bloodshed among some of the turbulent inhabitants, and, two years before the Magistrates issued the edict for all the children to be sent to school, these same Magistrates headed a mob to recover a piece of land near Milton and Hallyards in Manor, and conducted themselves so fiercely that lives were endangered. In the affray the Burnetts of Barns, the Scotts of Hundleshope, the Hunters in Manor, and a great many others were implicated. In the year 1638 James Williamson, the Provost, who had been conspicuous in the Manor *fracas*, went to Edinburgh and affixed his signature to the Solemn League and Covenant. This may seem strange; but we must bear in mind the times in which these people lived, and not judge them by our standard. They thought they were defending popular rights which were being wrested from those over whom they ruled, and they acted, as they conceived, in the interests of the people. The records of the period show too that the Presbytery was exercised about cases of witchcraft which had been brought before them. Ere 1656 arrived, the terrible plague had made its appearance in Scotland, and cast its shadow over Peebles, causing the greatest alarm.

In 1651, the daughters of Mr John Tweedie, Sheriff-Clerk, one of a well known and very large family resident in Peebles and its neighbourhood, showed their zeal for education by granting certain

lands (Frankisland and Dalatho) and houses in Peebles for the purpose of increasing the salary of the burgh teacher, but conditional on certain persons whom they named being allowed to take part in his election. What their object was, cannot, at this distance of time, be accurately understood. The opinions of the authorities in 1656 were very different from those entertained nowadays in regard to the rights and capacities of the female sex. In that year the Council forbade women to teach boys along with girls, and gave strict orders that all the boys should be sent to one of the regular schools.

A very interesting case occurred in the year 1693. After repeated exhortations to parents to send their children to the public schools, an example was made, because the exhortation had signally failed. "On 9th January 1693, John Govan, late Provost, James Grieve, late bailie, and George Brown, carrier, having sent their children to another school, from which they would not remove them unless there was a settled schoolmaster, which Mr M'Millan was not, being a preacher and about to get a kirk; it was answered to them that Mr M'Millan, having been found qualified by the Presbytery, and having got no other charge, they were bound to send their children to him. This they refused to do, and accordingly the Council fined them £10 Scots each, and ordained them to lie in prison till the fine was paid."

A correspondent has sent the author the copy of a ballad which, he says, was often sung in con-

vivial parties about the middle of the eighteenth century by an old schoolmaster, dressed as a woman with petticoats and head-gear belonging to one of the sex. Probably it refers to the time of Prince Charles Edward, for it mentions Sheriffmuir, which was "fought" in 1715, but of which it was said:—

> "We ran and they ran, and they ran and we ran,
> And we ran, and they ran awa', man."

It was set to the tune of "How are ye, kimmer?" The following verses of this ancient ditty may be given. It is entitled "The Threatened Invasion."

Elspet.—Fy, fy, Margaret, woman, are ye in?
I nae sooner heard it than fast I did rin
Down the gate to tell ye,
Down the gate to tell ye,
Down the gate to tell ye
We'll no be left our skin.

Oh dear! Oh dear! did ye no hear
The French and the Spaniards are a' coming here,
And we'll be a' murdered,
And we'll be a' murdered,
And we'll be a' murdered
Or the next year.

Weel, I micht ha' kent a' wasna richt,
I dreamed o' red and green a' last nicht,
And twa cats fechtin',
And twa cats fechtin',
And twa cats fechtin';
I waukened wi' the fricht.

Fare ye weel, woman, for noo I maun rin
From ye if oor neebor Eppie be in,
And auld Robin Barber,
And auld Robin Barber,
And auld Robin Barber,
For I maun tell him.

Margaret.—Bide a wee, wuman, and giest a' oot,
They're bringin' in black Paperie, I doot, I doot,
And sad reformation,
And sad reformation,
And sad reformation,
In a' the kirks aboot.

O dinna ye mind on this very fleer,
When we were a' riggit oot to gang to Sheriffmuir,
Wi' stanes in oor aprons,
Wi' stanes in oor aprons,
Wi' stanes in oor aprons,
Did muckle dule, I'm shere.

Here is little rhyme, and less reason; yet it shows us what entertained our ancestors at their evening tea parties about one hundred and fifty years ago!

In 1709, an effort having been made to get a suitable master for the Grammar School, Mr William Simpson, who dwelt in the Potterrow of Edinburgh —then an excellent and fashionable quarter of the city—having been examined in Edinburgh before the Magistrates, was found qualified to undertake the charge of the Grammar School, as he had shown himself proficient in writing, arithmetic, and Latin. But he must have been a failure as a teacher,

because the number of scholars gradually diminished, and the Council could not shut their eyes to the fact that the school was "going down;" so they could apply no remedy but dismissal. Mr Simpson was ordered, therefore, to remove somewhere else. In 1711—the year of Mr Simpson's retirement—the "master and doctor" (the head master and teacher) of "the Grammar School having quarrelled as to their respective powers and privileges in matters of teaching and discipline, the Town Council ordain them to live peaceably together, thereby giving a good example to the children under their care, lest they ruin the school." This warning does not appear to have been sufficient, for on 12th March 1712, the master turned the doctor out of doors, and beat him. The keys of the school were ordered to be delivered up instantly. In 1711—the year before the memorable battle between the two teachers—the "Town Council had appointed a burgh schoolmaster, at a certain stipend, with twenty loads of peat and ten loads of coal to be laid to his chaumer." On 8th January 1735, the Provost, in name of the Council, asked the Presbytery of Peebles to examine the Grammar School scholars, which they did in the following month. They caused the schoolmaster to take each Latin class separately, and made a minute investigation into the acquirements of the pupils, even prescribing themes and judging the papers. They also examined upon English and arithmetic, and expressed themselves satisfied—authorising, however, Mr John Hay, parish minister, to recommend the Magistrates to procure a more

convenient schoolhouse, which they promised to do.

In 1798 Mr Gray resigned the mastership of the Burgh School, and in the same year Miss Fairbairn was appointed to the Sewing School, the salary of which was fixed at £7; but the "wages" were to be considered after she entered on her duties. Miss Fairbairn came to Peebles from Yair, but she could not conveniently leave her situation till two of her pupils had finished a piece of "coulared work" they had begun. She was persuaded that "parents would not consider 3s a quarter too much for plain work or white seam; 6s for coulared or fancy work, and tambouring." Meantime, Mr Oman passed away from the scene, having retired in his old age, and Mr James Sloane appeared as master of the Grammar School. He was a native of Galloway, and highly recommended. Some idea of the estimation in which Mr Oman was held may be obtained from a few verses addressed to him on 1st January, 1780—one hundred and fifteen years ago—by a former pupil resident in Edinburgh—a Mr Murray. If the poetry is open to criticism, the warm attachment which breathes throughout the effusion makes amends for all defects in the versification:—

Lang may you live, my auld Preceptor,
May a' that's guid be your protector,
And lang may you continue Rector
O' Peebles School,
And never want a benefactor,
From Pask to Yule.

O could my pen describe your praise,
Baith far and near your fame I'd raise,
And set the Burrows in a blaze
Wi' candles bright,
As wont to do in former days
On King's birthnight.

There's ne'er a yin can come you near,
For teaching sound and wholesome lear,
And never fash your thumb nor fear
They'll get the vogue,
For you will flourish ilka year
In spite of Brogue.

'Tis weel ken'd, baith at hame and far,
You've pupils trained up to the war,
An' eik the pulpit and the bar
Wha mak' a figure ;
An' other some to heal a scar
Wi' fame and vigour.

There's nane o' a' your bairnies here
But wish you many a happy year,
An' long to treat you wi' good cheer
O' dainties fine,
An' drink your health in good sma' beer,
Or claret wine.

May peace and plenty aye attend
As lang as you hae days to spend ;
Your fireside never want a friend
That's just and true—
The only gift I now can send
To yours and you.

Some of the immediate descendants of Mr Oman

settled in Manchester, and became prosperous. We believe some are still alive.

On the resignation of Mr Gray many teachers applied for the vacant post. Among them was Mr Archibald Hall, Peebles, who had been taught by Mr Oman and Mr Gray, and who would not have applied if he "had been doubtful of his abilities." Also Mr Duncan Blair, Glasgow, who wrote "copperplate."

Mr Sloane found, after having been fairly settled, that he had no garden or any place for raising vegetables for his family (he had begun to keep boarders), and he asked the Town Council to rent him a small spot for that purpose, which we have no doubt was done. Mr Sloane had for many years the little garden to the north of the "Gytes meeting-house," which had been built in 1797. His next garden was at Tweed Green. The spot is occupied by the house built by the late Mr Robert Stirling, which is now called Ardenlea.

An advertisement appears in the *Courant*, *Advertiser*, and *Weekly Journal* for a schoolmistress for the burgh, properly qualified for teaching sewing, white seam, coloured work, and the other ordinary branches of female education. The salary was fixed at £10—a rise of £3 from the time Miss Fairbairn was appointed—and it was added that a well-qualified and diligent teacher might depend on good encouragement. Among the applicants for the female school was a Miss Henrietta Darling, who asked an answer to be sent to her, by a friend or

acquaintance in Peebles, telling of her prospects, and she promised to "transmit her moral charrater and abilityes by Respectable Persons." Mrs Stewart, who had also some acquaintances in Peebles, mentions having observed "in the Mondye's papers" that a person was wanted "wel qualified to thetch white seme and corlad worck." She lived at "fountinbridge subs in Edinburgh," and testified that she could be well recommended. Miss Ness was anxious for the appointment, and hoped, by "constant application and attention," to merit the favour of her friends. She mentioned that "she would be hapy to teach writing and reading, as it gives an opportunity of improving the mind." Rev. Dr Douglas of Galashiels strongly recommended Miss Dove, who had been a governess in his own family, and in other families of high respectability. Dr Douglas was at the time the mainstay of Galashiels. He possessed one of the three tablecloths which, at the beginning of the century, were all that the inhabitants could boast, and he went about with those manufacturers who were beginning business to be caution for them at the wool sales. The present generation of Galashiels people do not know how much they are indebted to the sagacity, enterprise, liberality, and zeal of the old and honoured parish minister. Dr Douglas succeeded in getting the appointment in Peebles for Miss Dove. When he heard of her success, he wrote a friend in Peebles that he would be much obliged if he could obtain for her "accommodation for teach-

ing and sleeping till she could look about her;" and he expresses the hope that "a well situated and healthy schoolroom should be provided, with a small sleeping apartment adjoining, with the necessary furniture, for one year." In order to facilitate the arrival of his letter, he says—"I intend to leave this at our toll-bar to go by the first conveyance." Miss Dove's regulation charges for plain work were 3s a quarter.

Miss Marion Watson, on 3rd July 1796, applied for an increase of salary, as she had "keept a school for teaching girls sewing and other parts of education in that line for near tow years." She points out that "Raising the wages much would be attended with many inconveniences, as it would deprive the poorer class of the community of that education they so much stand in need of."

In 1796 Mr James Gray petitioned the Council for an augmentation to his salary, as he had "taught the English School for Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic at his entery and for twenty years," first at one shilling a quarter, raised in 1782 or 1783 to one shilling and sixpence for such scholars as were "taught writing and arithmetic." Mr Gray makes an elaborate and eloquent statement about the advantage of education to youth, especially "in the present days, when so much dissipation and licentiousness prevail." The appeal was responded to by the Council raising the fees sixpence for each scholar.

In the same year, Mr Brown, schoolmaster,

petitioned for redress on account of the destruction caused by the flood at Ninians Haugh and Bridge End, which he rented from the Council for £6, 15s: and the prayer was granted. In 1798, Mr Brown agreed, at the solicitation of many inhabitants, to return to his school, which he seems to have resigned.

Mr Oman, as has been mentioned, disappeared from the scene before this, but, on account of his age and infirmity, which compelled his resignation, he was pensioned, his salary being continued to him. Mr Sloane received what was considered a good salary; but Mr Brown, the English School master, having died a short time before, the Burgh School was also placed under Mr Sloane's charge till a successor was appointed.

Mr Sloane soon began to feel the burden of having the management of both the Grammar and English Schools. Dr Reid met him one day and said he must take care of the "children, both English and Latin," the best way he could till Whitsunday, when it was thought another teacher would be settled, partly at the expense of the town and partly at that of the heritors. But Whitsunday passed, and there was no appearance of any successor to Mr Brown. Martinmas drew near, and the prospect was no clearer. Mr Sloane had more to do than he could manage, though he had an assistant, Mr Brown, to whom he gave £6 in the half year, with board, lodging, and washing. The school fees did not cover the expense to which

he was put, and he was anxious, naturally, not to be a loser. At length, in February next year (1804), Mr James Gray, of Dundee, applied for the English School. He was the author of the famous arithmetic book, which was wont by a subsequent generation, in utter ignorance, to be called "The *Grace Book*," which meant "The Gray's Book." This was not, of course, the "Grace Book" which, with "prymar and plain donatt," was used, at least in Edinburgh, in 1519. It seems, from certain accounts, that, excellent arithmetician as he was, and master of a very large number of scholars, Mr Gray was not regarded with awe by them. Dr Chambers mentions that he was by no means a total abstainer, often amusing rather than instructing his charge; and disorder prevailed too often. It is not clear what relation he was to Mr Gray, the teacher who preceded Mr Brown, but, when he heartily accepts the appointment which was offered to him, he expresses in a letter his attachment to the good town of Peebles for various reasons.

There is no very reliable evidence where the residences of the respective head masters were at one time. But it is well known that, shortly after the beginning of this century, the large house now called the "Rectory," in the "Vennel," and overlooking Tweed Green, was occupied by Mr Sloane. Mr Sloane's appointment has been previously mentioned, and we learn that the Presbytery of Peebles, during the last and for a very considerable portion of the present century, were in the habit

of examining not only the parochial schools, but also those in the burgh. The following gives an idea of the result of the examination of the schools in 1807:—

Peebles, 23rd April 1807.

Agreeably to Act of the General Assembly ordaining all Presbyteries to examine annually the schools within their bounds, the public schools here were this day examined by the Presbytery in presence of the Magistrates and other gentlemen, when the scholars at the Grammar School, taught by Mr Sloane, evinced a most accurate knowledge of the principles and translated with much correctness a variety of passages of the Latin, Greek, and French authors; the school under the care of Mr Gray discovered the same correct knowledge of the English language; and both showed that they were well instructed in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. These schools are at present in so flourishing a condition that both masters have found it necessary to get assistants. Mr Sloane has the very best accommodation for boarders, on most reasonable terms, and whoever shall put their children under his tuition we can most confidently assure them that the greatest attention will be given to their health, education, and morals.

(Signed) William Dalgleish, Minister of Peebles.
William Marshall, Minister of Manor.
James Nicol, Minister of Traquair.

Mr Sloane continued Rector of the Grammar School of Peebles almost from the beginning of the century till about 1844, and after his resignation he lived till about 1850. The names of some of his predecessors have been given. But under his care the school became famous. He received a large number of boarders from all quarters—from

England, America, the West Indies, and India, as well as from various parts of Scotland. And in after years many of those who had been trained under him—when they reached high positions and had become influential and wealthy members of society —returned to the scene of their youthful labours and visited their old teacher and his family. Mr Sloane was an excellent scholar, and one thing which he did was to ground his pupils thoroughly in the rudiments, "the beggarly elements," before he led them on to "fresh fields and pastures new." He was held in great respect on account of his high character, his thorough devotion to duty, and his unostentatious piety. He was for a very considerable period an elder in the Parish Church; and it was an imposing sight every Sunday morning and afternoon, the long line of boarders marching in procession, two and two, to the church, and taking their seats in order, under the superintendence of his assistant, in the long form which stretched from the foot of the pulpit stair on the south to the back passage on the north side. In 1843 he cast in his lot with the Free Church, and when the new church in connection with it was built in the School Brae he and his family became leading members of the congregation. But though he held staunchly to the principles of the "Disruption," he was by no means bigoted, and never lost one of his old friends who remained in the "Establishment;" though, in that stirring time many ties were broken, at any rate for a brief season. On one occasion when Dr Duff

came to Peebles to address a meeting in the Free Church, and to advocate the claims of the Free Church's India Mission, of which he was the head, he alluded in touching terms to the memory of Mr Sloane.

The Grammar School was, for a lengthened period in its history, situated at the east of the School Brae, next to Cabbage Hall; the Burgh School being on the west side. It was a one-storey building, and consisted simply of one room, which, to youthful imaginations, seemed quite spacious. There were many benches in it carved with a variety of names and initials, the work being surreptitiously performed, in order that the culprit, desirous of immortalising himself, might escape detection, and that punishment which was certain to overtake him. At the west end, near the fireplace, the "maister's chair" was placed, and he might be often seen conning over the Latin lesson before the class was called up. The official desk, however, stood on the south side, next to the door. The benches were removed when improvements were introduced, and a line of desks was placed round the apartment, with "unbacked forms;" so that, when the order of the day was given for "copy books," the scholars might "wheel in," and when lessons were called they might "wheel out," both operations being performed with ease and alacrity. There were very few maps, especially of distant parts of the world, and those in existence were very unlike the maps of the present day. "Unexplored territory" were common

words to be found in them — designating large portions now thoroughly well known, colonised by foreigners, and conversant with the benefits and evils of civilisation. *Stewart's Geography* was one of the text books, and, it need not be said, it is now out of date. The Burgh School was fitted up in much the same manner as the Grammar School. Local historians might find rich material in the stirring incidents of summer and winter campaigns carried on between the scholars of the two schools.

Mrs Bisset kept a seminary for young ladies about the year 1820, and had a considerable number of pupils. She, however, went to Leamington, where she established a successful boarding school, to which several of her former scholars were sent to "finish" their education. These went up by "smack" from Leith, and often endured the agonies of sea sickness. Miss Young succeeded Mrs Bisset. The school was in the house on the north side of the entrance to Ivy Bank (Dr Connell's).

Mr Sloane took a small farm or some fields, and rented the "Duke Haugh," where the Caledonian Railway Station is placed. The manager of his agricultural operations was Thomas Hughes, a man whom he thoroughly trusted.

Mr Sloane's successor in the Grammar School was Mr Balfour, who, after a few years, left to take up a large boarding establishment in Campie House, Musselburgh. From this he retired about twenty years ago, and resided in Edinburgh. He

died at Bridge of Allan about 1879. Mr Balfour was also a successful teacher, and held in much estimation in Peebles. He was followed by Mr John Russell, who had published in 1835 a little book, entitled *The Geography of Palestine, or the Holy Land, when possessed by the Israelites*, for the use of schools and junior students, with a map of Canaan divided into tribes. It was dedicated to the "Rev. Lewis Balfour, M.A., minister of Colinton, as a small mark of the esteem in which he is held for the exemplary discharge of his parochial duties;" and is dated from "Laverockdale." It is now, of course, entirely superseded by modern works, but it was a very useful publication in its day, and was well reviewed by the *Scotsman*, *Edinburgh Evening Post*, *Edinburgh Observer*, and *Church of Scotland Magazine*. Mr Russell, like his predecessors, kept boarders, while in his school French and drawing were taught by Monsieur de Chastelaine, who is remembered as the accomplished Frenchman. "Monsieur" resided for many years with Miss Crocket, first in the High Street above the shop of Charlie Tait the watchmaker, whence he went with her when she "flitted" to the house in Biggiesknowe which belonged to Mr William Chambers. In that house Chambers was born, and lived as a boy. "Monsieur," as he was called, had a strangely checkered career, and deserves more than a passing notice. He was born in Paris in 1791. His father, who was highly connected and wealthy, held the office of Treasurer to

the Navy and Army in Toulon. When the Republican forces attacked the town in 1793, the whole family escaped to Lisbon. "Monsieur" was then about three years old. At the age of eleven he was sent back to Paris with Count de Mazzis, and put to school. After a time the Count appointed him to some post in connection with the superintendence of the Imperial residences. He was forced to join the Army, but, as he did not love Napoleon, he managed to get away, and started in life as an artist. The part of his history on which he was fond of dwelling was, however, that which brought him into active service for the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. It was extremely interesting to listen to the account of his adventures in Greece, whither he was sent to arrange for the cession of an island to the Order. He came into contact with the principal men of Greece—Mavrocordatus and others, whose names appear in the history of an eventful period. His sketches of the leaders of Greek public opinion were most attractive. He received the title of Count of the Roman Order of the Golden Spurs, and his services were highly commended, though they were not successful. He displayed great tact, prudence, and courage. He followed his parents at length to England, and supported himself by teaching French and painting. He was intimate with Napoleon III., then in London, Count de Persigny, and other notabilities of the future. But he had a hard struggle, and observing in the *Times* an advertisement from the Rev. William Bliss,

Episcopal minister of Peebles (who kept a boys' boarding establishment), for a tutor, he applied for and obtained the appointment. This was in 1846, and he remained in Peebles till his death in 1875. "Monsieur" soon became a general favourite among all classes, and a welcome guest in many a home. His wide knowledge of the world, his cultured mind, his courtesy, his kindliness and good nature, his wonderful memory, the interest which he soon manifested in local matters, his bearing, which combined dignity with affability, won the hearts of the people. He was recognised as "a thorough gentleman of the old school." He often spoke of saving a little money to return to France, to see once more his native land; but besides his confession that "saving" was not his forte—for he was generous to a fault—he lamented that not a solitary individual in his own country knew anything about him; he had outlived all his friends and relatives. But he was happy in Peebles. He had good society; and though he had to teach in Mr Bliss' school, afterwards in that of Mr Wyer, in Mr Balfour's, and Mr Russell's, as well as in private families, he never mourned that he was deprived of the luxuries he was wont to enjoy. Two things, however, he could not dispense with—a cigar, or a pipe when he could not get a cigar, and perfume. He became a member of the Episcopal Church, and most sincerely abandoned Roman Catholicism; because he had seen too much of its influence abroad. To the last he was a devout and sincere worshipper. He used

to speak with the greatest respect of Mr Bliss, whose character he admired, and who had been very kind to him. None more fervently mourned the death of this excellent and worthy clergyman than did Monsieur de Chastelaine. "Monsieur" was very acute, and could "read" people very well; and though never severe, was often amusing, in his criticisms of individuals. As in the case of most foreigners, a shrug of his shoulders conveyed much meaning without any accompanying word. He was short of stature, inclined to be stout, had a profusion, at one time, of curly hair, and an exceedingly pleasant, open countenance.

Mr Bliss resided in what had been the Duke of Queensberry's house, rented by him from Miss Reid, daughter of Dr John Reid; and had a large boarding school of boys chiefly from wealthy families in England. After his death, the Rev. Mr Wyer succeeded him, and in the same place maintained a similar establishment till he retired to occupy a villa which he built on Venlaw Hill.

In Mr Russell's time a newspaper was started in opposition to the *Peeblesshire Advertiser*, with which it is now incorporated. It was called the *Peebles County Newspaper*, but, though it attained a certain measure of support, it was not a very successful venture. Mr Russell acted as editor during the period of its existence. At the Grammar School in Mr Russell's time there were two embryo Professors of great eminence—John Veitch (who had been also at Mr Sloane's and Mr Balfour's, and

gained the silver medal in Mr Russell's); and Henry Calderwood, who had highly distinguished himself under Mr Balfour.

The Burgh School was long under the management of Mr Alexander Bathgate, father of the late Mr John Bathgate, Procurator-Fiscal, who, along with Mr William Chambers and Mr Walter Thorburn, took a great interest in the formation of the Peebles railway. Mr Bathgate's successor was the late Mr John Willins, son of Mr Willins, merchant; and brother of the late Rev. Angus Willins, minister of Whalsay. Mr John Willins was an admirable teacher, and most successful in training his pupils. He brought the Burgh School into a high state of efficiency, and, having introduced what were then new methods, was regarded as one of the ablest and most energetic amongst his contemporaries.

There was also for many years a school in Biggiesknowe, conducted, at one time, by the Messrs Murray, both of whom became licentiates, and both of whom obtained parishes in the west of Scotland. Singularly enough, the one brother was presented to Old Cumnock, the other to New Cumnock. The latter — Rev. R. E. Murray — published several years ago a book entitled *The Scripture Doctrine of Repentance unto Life, in a series of discourses*, and he is also the author of several poems. The memory of "Poet Tait," one of the teachers, is still fresh. Three other teachers who are still remembered were Mr Andrew Wood Smith, Mr Robert Brown, and Mr Archibald

Alison, all of whom became ministers of the United Presbyterian Church — Mr Smith being settled in Pitlessie in 1847; Mr Brown in Markinch in the same year; and Mr Alison in Leslie in 1849. Curiously enough, these places, all in Fife, are within a radius of a few miles of each other. Mr Brown is still the respected pastor of his first charge in Markinch; Mr Alison was translated some years ago from Leslie to Prestwick, in Ayrshire, where he still labours; and Mr Smith, after a ministry extending over a period of about forty years, retired some time ago from the active duties of the pastorate.

The minor schools have already been noticed, at least those conducted by female teachers. It may be added that within "the memory of man" the Misses Horsburgh kept a school in the Northgate, in the same house formerly occupied by Miss Young; and amongst others was that conducted by the Misses Sloane.

It would be unpardonable not to mention in connection with education the library kept by Mr Alexander Elder. It was famous in its day all over the district. It is even said that Sir Walter Scott, on one of his visits to Peebles, looked with interest over the volumes. Mr Elder also supplied the schools with paper, pens, and what was necessary in that line. Robert Chambers says—"When lately attending the Wells of Homburg, I had but one English book to amuse me—Pope's translation of the *Iliad*, and I felt it as towards myself an affecting

reminiscence, that exactly fifty years had elapsed since I perused the copy from Elder's library in a little room looking out upon the High Street of Peebles, where an English regiment was parading recruits raised for Wellington's Peninsular campaign."

In later years Alexander Scott, or "Booky Scott," as he was generally called, sold literature, but not on an extensive scale. He did not risk a stock either of new books or new periodicals. At the best there was not much choice in his limited selection, though it was regarded by juveniles as a vast collection of the most wonderful works the intellect of man had produced. Mr Scott's shop was on the west side of the Tontine Hotel.

CHAPTER V.

The time of the "Resurrectionists" was very disquieting to the inhabitants of the royal burgh. Blood-curdling tales were told with bated breath at the firesides, and after night-fall young people were afraid to venture beyond the town, sometimes even into the streets. Guards were appointed for the churchyards in every parish; and the "watch-house" was the rendezvous of those on whom the duty rested of making stated perambulations of "God's Acre" during the dark and silent hours. Not unfrequently they did scare away intruders, who pursued their dismal work of "body-lifting" in a secret and stealthy manner. Every stranger, if he had the least suspicious appearance, was the object of scrutiny, and additional precautions were taken if he was seen loitering in the vicinity of the churchyard. Any man who happened to have a green bag in his possession was supposed to keep it filled with plasters for sticking over the mouths of his victims, and to him was given a wide berth. It is quite true that Peebles was visited by the unholy marauders; and several of the secluded churchyards of the county were also resorted to

by them, because it was believed that detection would be difficult. It is recorded that on one cold and dismal afternoon a gig was driven up to the Tontine, and two unknown travellers alighted. When partaking of necessary refreshments they enquired if the parish minister was at home, as they were anxious to see him. They professed to be ignorant of the situation of the Manse, and were courteously directed towards it. They were absent for some time, and on their return to the hotel expressed great disappointment that the minister had gone; yet, as they must reach Edinburgh that night, they would make another effort, going round by the Manse, and then through Biggiesknowe to the Edinburgh road. In an hour or two they quietly drove up the Old Town, concealed from observation by the darkness. It transpired that they had never been to the Manse, but must have gone straight to the churchyard. When they reached the first toll-bar on their return to the Metropolis, the toll-keeper, who had to be roused from his slumbers, positively declared that, when he flashed his lantern on the faces of the travellers he recognised them as having passed that afternoon, while he as positively asserted that a third figure was seated between them, of strange appearance, his head dropped on one side, and a large hat partially concealing his countenance! The hue and cry was raised, but no discovery of the culprits was made, while it was found that a grave had really been tampered

with. In a lonely parish far up the Tweed, about twelve o'clock on a bright moonlight night, a conveyance was heard approaching the Manse, which stands close beside the churchyard — in which an interment had recently taken place. It was thought that the occupants of the gig were the minister, who had been on a journey to Edinburgh, and a friend accompanying him. The housekeeper, who had seen them driving up, waited impatiently for them to knock or ring. But she waited in vain. She became alarmed, and as there was no one in the house but herself, she was afraid to go out to reconnoitre. At length she heard the vehicle depart at a rapid rate, and on looking out saw in it three figures, though there had been only two before. Next morning it was found that a grave had been opened and the body abstracted!

The story of Burke and Hare spread consternation everywhere. Hare was very well known in Peebles. He had, for some time, worked on the roads in Manor Parish, and once, when ill, had been attended by Dr Craig. He had also lived, as a farm labourer, at Nether Horsburgh; and, just before the commencement of his ignominious career, he had walked from Meggat across the hills with a gentleman who had been shooting, and who afterwards, when the details of the life in Edinburgh became public, was very thankful he had escaped being murdered. But this gentleman could not have been easily overcome, for he was tall, well

built, strong, and mounted on a pony; while his dog, "Juno," was his faithful companion.

Hare, like Burke, was an Irishman. The first-named miscreant was born in Londonderry, the second in Cork. They came as labourers to Scotland. Hare found his way to Peebles, and afterwards to Edinburgh, where at first he assisted in unloading canal boats at Port Hopetoun. He next went about with an aged horse and a rickety cart selling old iron and crockery — anything, in short, by which he could turn a penny. Where he met Burke we do not know; but Burke, Mrs M'Dougall, of notorious repute, and he lived together in Tanner's Close in the West Port, the scene of many murders. They sold the corpses to the "doctors," and to Knox, the famous lecturer on anatomy. When the discovery of their brutality was made, Hare turned King's evidence, and told the whole story at the trial. Burke was hanged, amid general execration; Mrs M'Dougall escaped by a verdict of not proven; and Hare betook himself, in disguise, back to Ireland. It is said he at length died in London. Whether this was the case cannot be positively affirmed.

Dr Knox soon became notorious in Edinburgh for his connection with Burke and Hare, and was the object of popular fury. He resided in Newington Terrace, and one day a mob gathered at his gate, and strove to effect an entrance. But the house was valiantly defended by a large body of students, hastily summoned, and though every pane

of glass was shivered into a thousand atoms, no capture was made, for Knox escaped by the back door. He afterwards went to London, where it is reported that he died in extreme poverty. He was a famous anatomist and a brilliant lecturer. His personal appearance was commanding. He had a fine figure, good presence, and pleasant countenance. Some of his students rose to high places of honour, and made their mark as distinguished surgeons.

The following story is told of what occurred in Peebles Churchyard on one occasion. A lecturer on chemistry arrived in the town, and during his visit there was a funeral. The watchers at night were Robert Brydon, shoemaker, Old Town; Charles Spottiswoode, weaver; James Brydon, Port Brae. Charles, looking out at dead of night from the "wee north window," cried to his companions, "They're thrang." Robert rushed out with his loaded gun, and at the noise of his approach the resurrectionists made off towards the north wall. When he reached a tombstone surrounded with iron bars, he fired and cried "stop." But no response was given, and the fugitives escaped. Next day, however, blood was seen on the rail around the grave, and on the wall. Elijah Henderson, who lived at Hay lodge, hearing the shot, ran out, clad only in his night-shirt, but with a hay fork in his hand; and his sudden appearance in white attire alarmed the defenders very greatly, and they were not satisfied till they heard him speak. Rightly or wrongly,

suspicion rested on the stranger, as he did not continue the course of lectures he had commenced, and he never appeared again!

Peebles has always had a good supply of medical men. To the first Dr Reid—an eminent physician and surgeon in his day—we have already alluded, as also to his son, Dr John Reid, who was born in 1773, and died 27th May 1838. Dr Marshall was in Peebles during their time, as also Dr Mungo Park for a brief period; and Mr Summers was a surgeon about the close of the last or beginning of the present century. Dr Williamson, who, if we are not mistaken, belonged to Noblehouse (and whose widow survived till within recent years), lived above Mr Hume's, the baker, where the British Linen Bank now is, on the east side of the Tontine. He died in 1824, or thereabouts, a comparatively young man, just entering on a good practice. Dr Hutton afterwards occupied the same house, but did not remain long. Dr Bryden lived in "Parliament Square," in the house now occupied by Mr Watson, bookseller. He died about 1828. His brother was Mr Bryden, Orchardmains. Dr Wood (who left Peebles about 1834) lived opposite the Cross, on the south side of the High Street; he was esteemed a "skeely man," and had a considerable reputation. Dr Wardlaw lived in Biggiesknowe, in the house occupied afterwards by Dr Smyth, later still by the late Mr Robert Stirling, and subsequently by the late Mr Dickson, Sheriff-Clerk. Dr Wardlaw

had a famous chestnut horse, still remembered by old inhabitants. Its name was "Dreadnought," and was a gift from the Laird of Windylaws. It could jump the toll-bar gates with ease. Soon after Dr Wardlaw obtained this fine animal, he discovered that it had one fault, which was to stand still whenever it pleased; and no amount of coaxing or whipping could induce it to stir till its own time came. Once, on a Sunday morning, he was riding up the Neidpath Road, when the animal suddenly came to a dead halt, and refused to move. He sat quietly in the saddle, never tried to force it, patiently waited for it to take the initiative, and for more than two hours the steed and its rider remained as if they formed a monument on the highway. The people who had passed them, bound for church in the morning, found them on their return home in the same position as they had seen them before, and, of course, were highly amused. At length, of its own free will, the horse moved forward, and never again attempted the same trick! Dr Wardlaw went to Dunfermline. Dr Craig (whose first abode in Peebles was the house occupied by Mr Montgomery the butcher, and who resided latterly near the corner of the Briggate) came about 1815. He had a large practice both in town and country for a period of nearly fifty years. One of his sons, Dr John Craig, went to England, but, unfortunately, died in the very prime of manhood. When Dr Craig retired he removed to Caverhill. (Some

letters of his, descriptive of the life of a country doctor, appear in Dr John Brown's *Horæ Subsecivæ*.) A year or two later than 1815, Dr Renton came to Peebles, and resided in Quebec Hall, which has been frequently referred to. He also had an excellent practice, and was popular with his patients. Both he and Dr Craig had long journeys in the country, and knew well the hardships of such a life as must be led by a doctor in a rural district. Dr John Macnab, whose father was the sole druggist in the town, lived where is now the shop of Mr Peden, grocer. He removed to Yorkshire. Dr Crawford succeeded Dr Macnab, and remained in Peebles till 1870 or 1871, when he went to Glasgow, where he died some years afterwards. He was succeeded by Dr Fergusson, who died in February 1887. After him came Dr Gunn, who entered on the practice. Dr Smyth, who lived in Biggiesknowe, was only about a year in Peebles. Dr Junor came from Edinburgh, His family resided in Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, and his boyish days are alluded to in Mr Josiah Livingstone's interesting little book, *Our Street*. At first he occupied the house the entrance to which was from the Northgate, and adjoined Mr Stalker's "meeting-house." It had been, in fact, Mr Stalker's manse — where the "whale's jaws" were placed—but after a good many years he built "Ivy Bank," in part of the garden belonging to the property. During the erection of the new house he lived in that which had been the residence

of Mungo Park, afterwards of Mr Fotheringham, writer. Dr Junor was long an elder in the Parish Church, and when Mr William Stuart, W.S., consented to become Provost of the burgh, it was on condition that Mr John Stirling and he should be Bailies. Dr Junor agreed, and took part in municipal matters till Mr Stuart's retirement from the Provostship. Dr Junor was succeeded by Dr Connel, who had previously acted as his assistant.

On the death of Rev. John Elliot, the patron (the Earl of Wemyss) granted the choice of a successor to the congregation. There were several eligible candidates, and one or two preached in the Parish Church. A deputation, however, was sent to Tulliallan to hear the Rev. George Hope Monilaws, who had been recommended. A highly favourable report was brought back, and a meeting, at which a large number of members were present, was convened in the Town Hall. The name of the Rev. John Little of Manor was put forward, but on a vote being taken Mr Monilaws was carried by a large majority. He was accordingly recommended to the Earl, by whom he was duly presented. Mr Monilaws had distinguished himself as a student, and shortly after being licensed had received the appointment of assistant in Alloa to Mr Brotherstone. He was presented to the vacant charge of Tulliallan, of which parish he was minister when the Secession in 1843 took place. He came to Peebles in 1847. He was the author of several papers in the *Christian*

Instructor—a well known periodical of the day—of a pamphlet on "Pauperism," which was commended by Dr Chalmers, and of a paper on "Islamism." He was a popular preacher, and his manner in the pulpit was often singularly animated and energetic. He married, while at Tulliallan, a daughter of Mr MacGeorge, a well known lawyer in Glasgow. His brother-in-law, Mr Andrew MacGeorge, was an able writer on ecclesiastical affairs, and his legal knowledge and experience in Church courts served him well in his controversy with Sir Henry Moncrieff and others who entered the lists with him in defence of the position maintained by the Free Church. Mr Monilaws received the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University in 1865. He died on 27th January 1870, and was succeeded by the Rev. John Bell Lorraine, B.D., son of the minister of Caerlaverock, who had discharged the duties of assistant to Dr Monilaws only for a few weeks before his death. Mr Lorraine was previously assistant to Rev. Dr Wright of Dalkeith. During his ministry the new church was built, and the old manse was exchanged for the present one. The former church, as has been stated, was erected when Dr Dalgleish was minister, so it was not a hundred years old at the time it was taken down. The last service was conducted by the author, when the edifice was crowded by an immense congregation. The new church was opened by the Rev. Dr Scott of St George's, Edinburgh.

There had been long a desire expressed by several men of "light and leading" in the burgh that the streets should be improved and modernised, the outshots removed, the outside stairs taken away, and pavements laid on the footpaths. Accordingly, in 1846, Mr John Stirling, the Provost, along with Mr John Bathgate, Town-Clerk, began a subscription list, and by dint of great exertions raised sufficient money to carry out the project. The old "causeway" gave place to pavement, while the centre of the streets was macadamised, rolled, and brought more into conformity with the requirements of the nineteenth century for the High street of a royal burgh. It was no easy task to arrange with the proprietors of various tenements, and many grumbles were heard. Eventually the work was accomplished: the well at the gable of the late Mr Williamson's house in the Eastgate, the cottage occupied by James Campbell, between it and Miss Robertson's, the stair at the house of Walter Dickson, that at "Barber Jock's," the well house opposite Miss Reid's (Queensberry House), were, with other excrescences, all removed; and the street assumed a new aspect.

Walter Dickson, whose name we have just mentioned, was a slater, and kept a pony, on which he made his journeys. He often allowed the boys of his acquaintance the rare treat of a ride for a short distance on this little animal. His wife was known as "Nancy Robertson." In those days there

was no "mistress" among the humbler class. It was the same with her neighbour, "Euphy French," whose married name was Mathieson. Her daughter Lily died not long ago, considerably over eighty years of age, in a small house—provided for her when her own was removed for the erection of the Free Church—not far from the spot where she was born. Then there was John Dickson the smith. His wife was recognised as "Nanny Buglass." She was somewhat of a character, and her tongue was voluble and sharp. Some people may recollect "Eppie Mech," who sold "blackman" or "gundy." Her abode was a dingy room at the end of a long, dark passage next the Chambers Institution, but, it need not be said, it was an attractive resort of juveniles, who exchanged their "copy books"—many of them sadly blurred and blotted—for a small piece of the coveted article for which Eppie was famous.

Mr Notman was for many years head of the police, and is still remembered by the older people. Sergeant Andrews was the messenger who succeeded "Jamie Hall," and many a weary tramp he had delivering summonses to debtors.

It is a long time since Miss Simson—Mrs Dr John Reid's sister—kept a neat little shop in the Northgate, and Bailie Fraser a shop in the High Street. It is long since Mr Thorburn started business—as successor to another Mr Fraser, who left Peebles for Glasgow, where he became a well known and

prosperous merchant. Mr Thorburn, from small beginnings, rose to be one of the wealthiest and most influential men of "light and leading" in the old burgh. Mr Robert Thorburn, the eldest surviving son, is agent for the Bank of Scotland, and fills a variety of important offices. Mr Walter Thorburn is M.P. for the united counties of Peebles and Selkirk. Mr William Thorburn is Major of the Volunteers, a distinguished marksman, having taken many prizes at Wimbledon and elsewhere; and Mr Michael Thorburn is proprietor of Glenormiston. The house of Mr Thorburn, senior, was formerly in Tweedgreen, where he had on the one side Mr Robert Stirling's and Rev. Mr Duncan's houses, and on the other those of the Rev. Mr Thomson and Mr Blyth. He afterwards erected the handsome villa, now occupied by Mr Robert Thorburn, in Springhill. He took an active part in public affairs, was Provost for a time, and zealous in the promotion of the Peebles railway. It is long since Bailie Grieve—the intimate friend of "Christopher North" (Professor Wilson)—made fishing rods in his place at the foot of the Old Town, and caressed a pet—a sable and aged "corbie"—which was wont to frighten the children who ventured to cross Cuddy Bridge, or essayed to make a passage through Biggiesknowe in the direction of Neidpath Castle. The leonine form of Christopher was frequently seen in the streets of Peebles, and he was one of the patrons of the Innerleithen games. James Hogg, the Ettrick

Shepherd, was an occasional visitor; but it was at Innerleithen he appeared in all his glory, when he was accompanied by Wilson, Glassford Bell, and other literary notabilities. It is long since Cooper Gibson began the trade at which he became famous; since Mr Hamilton, Mr Paterson, Mr Gilray, flourished together as ironmongers, each having his own circle of supporters; since John Ballantyne commenced as an upholsterer, and took up his residence in Biggiesknowe; since Mr Lambert made or caused to be made the figure supposed to be of a lion, but which might have represented any other quadruped, and placed it above the entrance to his house overlooking the soft flowing water of the Cuddy; since Rosina Brydon had her shop at the east side of "Mr Adam's close," ere she flitted to one near "Bailie Hall's pend;" since Mr Alexander Girdwood first entered upon controversy with the burgh authorities; since old "Marion" used gratuitously to inform the passers-by that the "warld was a' wrang;" since Mr Wilkie and Mr Robert Ritchie became known as two of the best builders in the burgh. Mr Wilkie was a much respected townsman, and his descendants still remain to keep up the credit of the name. Mr Ritchie—brother of the late Rev. Mr Ritchie of Athelstaneford—was a man of few words, of sterling honesty, and most careful in regard to all the works he executed. He lived on the west side of Mr Adam's close, and was a regular attender, and an elder, in the "Meeting-house." It is long since

Mr Affleck, the minister of Lyne, was a familiar figure in the High Street, clad in his old-fashioned garments, with a peculiar kerchief around his neck. He was ordained, in 1814, assistant and successor to Mr Handyside, who died in Edinburgh in 1826. Mr Affleck lived till December 1845, and discharged his duties both at Lyne and Meggat till within a short time of his death. He was an old bachelor, rather eccentric in his habits, with extremely simple and inexpensive tastes, and he was also somewhat penurious. For many years his niece, Miss Alexander, kept his house, and to her he left the money he had saved. On one occasion some lady friends from Peebles paid him a visit on their way up the Lyne. He received them with his usual courtesy and kindliness, but, remembering that his toilet was not altogether completed, he conducted them into his sitting-room, opening out of which was a very small apartment, whereinto he betook himself, and carried on the conversation with his guests during the process of shaving. Now and again he preached in Peebles Parish Church, and when, in the course of his sermon, he became excited, he flourished—now a white pocket-handkerchief, now a red, now a yellow, and occasionally three or four together, oblivious of the variety of colours displayed to the amused congregation. And if in the psalm or paraphrase following the sermon there happened to be some verse which harmonised with the views he had expounded, he hesitated not to jump to his feet while it was being sung,

emphasise the point by crying out, "That's it, that's it," and — to the discomfiture of precentor and people — having interjected a few observations, quietly indicate that the praise might be resumed. It is long since Dr Renton was Provost of Peebles; since Mr Paterson occupied the municipal seat of honour; and we come to recent times when Mr Keddie presided over the affairs of the burgh. Mr Keddie is yet amongst us, and forms a link binding the present to the past. No more are we permitted to rejoice in the imposing procession with banners at the "Whipman's Play"—a procession which in its passage through the streets was latterly invariably headed by old Mr John Ker the smith, whose venerable form was elevated on a black horse, richly caparisoned, and gaily adorned with bright-coloured ribbons. No more are we permitted to anticipate the return of the "Fair Days," which were rendered memorable by the "fairings" liberally bestowed on the juvenile portion of the inhabitants; by the crowds from the country which flocked to the town for various reasons; by the innumerable stalls which dotted the streets, and rendered vehicular traffic slow, but which were fully supplied with all manner of articles of the most attractive description—some marvellous in their magnificence!—to catch the eye and excite the cupidity of the lads and lasses who had money to spend. These days were occasionally "part holidays," and from morn to night the air was filled with the hum of many voices,

mingled with the inspiring sounds of penny whistles, Jew's harps, miniature drums, and the sharp crack of pop-guns!

Peebles has not produced many poets; still, it can boast of one or two whose fame reached beyond the borders of the county. "Willie Laidlaw" did not belong to the burgh, but "The Glen" is celebrated in the beautiful song, "Lucy's Flittin';" and the Rev. Mr Nicol of Traquair was the author of several touching pieces, one of which begins:—

"Where Quair rins sweet amang the flowers,
Down by yon woody glen, lassie,
My cottage stands—it shall be yours,
Gin ye will be my ain lassie.

I'll watch ye wi' a lover's care,
And wi' a lover's e'e, lassie;
I'll weary heaven wi' mony a prayer,
And ilka prayer for thee, lassie."

"Tom Smibert," as he was familiarly called, belonged to the burgh of which his father had been Provost. At a very early age he contributed to various periodicals, and he published a volume entitled "Io Ianche," which was printed by "James Hogg, Edinburgh." An edition is dated 1831. In the preface he says—"Io Ianche! All who are acquainted with the Italian language, however slightly, must know the literal meaning of these words to be 'I ALSO!' Their appearance thus prominently on the title page of the present volume

may be explained in a great measure at the option of individuals." It is dedicated to his sister, of whom he writes:—

> True friend, for ever by my side,
> Companion, counsellor, and guide,
> A solace in the griefs of life,
> And calmer of its moods of strife;
> In all that yields me pleasure sharing,
> For all I care for, warmly caring.
>
> . . .
>
> If thus I joy to hope that here,
> Even on this transitory sphere,
> We may not wholly part, O, how
> In thankfulness the heart should bow
> To Him who hath the prospect given
> Of endless fellowship in Heaven!
> Loved sister, to the pure and good
> Fixed ever hath this promise stood.
> Should I in life such trust secure,
> Our long communion must be sure;
> Thou ever hast been good and pure.

The poems are of various degrees of merit, but through many of them a true poetic spirit breathes, and not a few of them are characterised by tenderness and pathos. Among the best is the *Scottish Widow's Lament*, as she mourns over the desolation Death has made in her home:—

> Afore the Lammas tide
> Had dun'd the birken tree,
> In a' oor water side
> Nae wife was blest like me;

A kind gudeman and twa
  Sweet bairns were round me here;
But they're a' ta'en awa'
  Sin the fa' o' the year.

Sair trouble cam' oor gate,
  And made me, when it cam',
A bird withoot a mate,
  A ewe withoot a lamb.
Oor hay was yet to maw,
  And oor corn was to shear,
When they a' dwined awa'
  In the fa' o' the year.

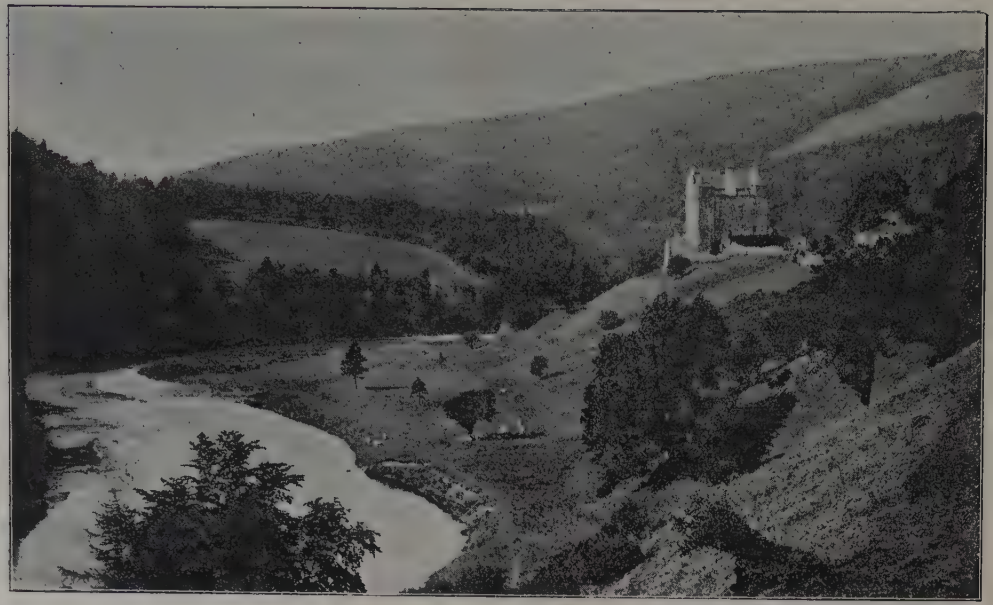
. . . . . .

I ettle whiles to spin,
  But wee, wee patterin' feet
Come rinnin' oot and in,
  An' then I just maun greet;
I ken it's fancy a',
  And faster rows the tear,
For my a' dwined awa'
  In the fa' o' the year.

Mr Smibert was a voluminous prose writer as well as a poet; and the *Clans of the Highlands of Scotland* testified to his diligent research. It is a work of considerable value; was published at 45s., and most favourably received by the press. "Five hundred articles, or essays, of a general description, were composed from the date 1837 to the middle of 1842; and to the list may be added from forty to fifty biographies, or biographical sketches, all being published in *Chambers's Journal*."

The lawyers in Peebles have always been numerous; and though the population was never large, they generally were in affluent, or, at least, comfortable circumstances. There was Mr Little, Town-Clerk near the end of last century; Mr Summers, Mr Williamson, Mr Bertram, Mr Cairns, Commissary Robertson (father and son), Mr Needham, Mr Macgowan, Mr Fotheringham, Mr William M'Intosh, Mr Robert Duncan Douglas (who became Procurator-Fiscal for the Burgh of Glasgow)—all these were within a period of fifty years. In later days were Mr William Blackwood (from Lee-law, Lanarkshire, who served his apprenticeship with Messrs Hunter, Blair, & Cowan); Mr John Bathgate, Procurator-Fiscal; Mr John Buchan, Mr James D. Bathgate, Mr Stevenson. Mr Welsh, W.S., was agent for the British Linen Company's Bank; Mr William Stuart, W.S., succeeded him, along with Mr Blackwood; Mr Bathgate had the Union Bank; Mr Buchan the Commercial Bank; and Mr Walter Thorburn the City of Glasgow Bank, and thereafter the Bank of Scotland.

There was, within the memory of living people, a reading-room established next to the Town House; and the same stair led to both. A few newspapers and magazines were placed on a long table in the centre of the room. Thither resorted those who desired to become acquainted with what was being done in the great world outside; and there Mr Andrew Stavert presided, after he had delivered the letters round the town. In the



From a Photograph by G. W. Wilson.

NEIDPATH CASTLE.

same room there was wont to be held a series of evening social gatherings — once a month or so. There was always a different chairman, and the speakers likewise were varied, as far as was possible in a community in which oratory was confined to a few. Mr John Bathgate was generally a prominent man, and was always able to interest the company: Mr John Stirling never failed to be eloquent, as well as instructive: Sheriff Burnett was amusing and anecdotical: Mr Semple could discourse on a number of topics with marvellous fluency. Mr Thomson and Mr Monilaws occasionally put in an appearance. These were very agreeable evenings, and served to break in on the monotony of winter months in a country town.

The times of election for a Member of Parliament were always times of liveliness in the burgh. The hustings were erected in front of the Town Hall—the first time they were used was in 1837. A large crowd collected in the street to cheer the favourite and to howl at the unpopular candidate. Woe betide the aspirant to the representation of the county against whom any story, false or true, could be raked up! Humorous, frequently most unmannerly, interruptions and questions were heard on every side. And very thankful were those principally concerned when the affair was at an end, and they retired through the respective windows from which they had emerged, amid a most unearthly babel of applause and hisses. The candidate who happened

to be the idol of the multitude was escorted to his hotel with the wildest demonstrations of enthusiasm, while his unfortunate rival was glad to seek shelter as speedily as possible from the jeers and taunts, and missiles harder than words, which were sometimes launched at him. Then came the polling day, when the result was declared hour by hour till the close. The excitement increased, especially if there was a neck-and-neck race; and, if the decision of the voters was contrary to the wish of the populace, scenes of violence against the chief supporters of the elected were not uncommon. Mr W. Forbes Mackenzie of Portmore was chosen for many years in preference to Mr Carmichael of Skirling, and sat for the county and burgh from 1837 to 1852, when, on his election for Liverpool, Sir G. Graham Montgomery was chosen in his stead. He continued Member till Mr (now Sir Charles) Tennant was victorious. He was in turn defeated by Mr Walter Thorburn. Having successfully held the seat against Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael at the general election in 1892, and again against the Master of Elibank in 1895, Mr Thorburn is still representative for the united counties of Peebles and Selkirk. The hustings and open voting were dispensed with under the Reform Act of 1868, and so these days of excitement were numbered. A tragic event occurred in 1847, at the nomination of Mr Mackenzie and Mr Carmichael. The hustings (a high wooden platform with a protective railing) were erected in the usual place, and at the appointed

hour a large assemblage of the supporters of the two candidates filled the portions assigned to them. At an early part of the proceedings, just when a gentleman was proposing Mr Mackenzie as a "fit and proper person to represent the burgh and county in Parliament," the erection was observed to sway backwards and forwards. A deep hush fell for a moment on the crowd in the street, a feeling of horror seized them, then a terrific crash was heard —a piercing cry rose into the air, and the space which had been filled by the hustings was empty! No lives were lost at the time, but not a few persons were grievously bruised. The candidates, the Sheriff (Napier), and several others received severe injuries. One or two of those present succumbed at a later period to their injuries, and several others carried the marks of the catastrophe till their dying day. Many were unable to leave Peebles for two or three days. There were those whose subsequent infirmities could be traced to the appalling disaster, which called forth widespread sympathy, and was the subject of judicial inquiry.

The programme of proceedings at the hustings was simple. The Sheriff occupied a chair between the two sides—the Conservative and Liberal, or, as they were then called, the Tory and the Whig candidates, with their respective supporters. He commenced by reading the writ for the election. Then the late member had the precedence; he was duly proposed by a political friend, generally in a lengthened and eulogistic speech, and was seconded

by a tenant farmer. He next gave an address—explaining and advocating his views on all matters of interest, national and local—which, as has been said, was very frequently interrupted by remarks or queries, or scraps of information of an uncomplimentary description. The same form of procedure was followed by the opposite party, but the Whig candidate was always loudly cheered. The hat on such occasions was found to be a convenient and most useful article of dress; for as the speaker, out of respect for the majesty of the people, removed it from his head when he spoke, he could so hold it in his hand that, when thoughts or words failed him, he could look now and again into the interior, where he had carefully placed his written oration. Of course, those practised in public speaking did not condescend to a device of the kind; but even the most fluent orator could be thrown off his guard by some pertinent, or probably rather impertinent, ejaculations, uttered in a clear, shrill, or deep-toned voice, from the midst of the intelligent audience on the street.

William Robertson, or "Wull Robison," as he was generally called, was a conspicuous and influential man—tall, stout, and a first-rate auctioneer. He lived in the Old Town, and his name was duly advertised when any sale of furniture or field produce was to take place. His occupation was, however, not strictly confined

to that of salesman. When any of Mr Sloane's boarders ran away, which sometimes — unfortunately for themselves—they did, "Wull" was at once communicated with, and sent off in a gig to capture and bring back the fugitives. These were generally overtaken on the high road to Edinburgh, and the seizure was effected in a most strategical manner. "Wull" pretended not to recognise them or guess the reason of their being so far from Peebles. When he reached them, he drew up, kindly inquired whither they were going, offered them a "lift," as they must be tired; then turned his horse's head and made straight home with them. Being a man of kindly aspect they were deceived, and being a strong man they dared not resist when the awful truth flashed upon them that he was an emissary of "the master!" The poor fugitives, it need not be said, repented of their attempt to escape. William died on 30th May 1856.

"Jock Lookup" was at one time a well known figure in the streets of Peebles. He was simple-minded and innocent, his *soubriquet* being derived from the steady manner in which he surveyed the ground on which he trod. His real name was Paterson, though several people believed it was "Lookup." It is a curious circumstance that there was once a family so called, but in the course of generations it has disappeared. That family was represented by a rather famous man, the minister of Mid-Calder, in 1698. He is described as very diminutive, with a high idea of

his own importance. He died in 1758, but whither his family was scattered is not known.

In the minutes of the "Gutterbluid Club" there is an interesting account of the "keying" of the bridge across the Tweed on 15th August 1834—of which Mr John Wilkie, mason, Peebles, was the constructor. The Masonic Lodge had invited contingents from Galashiels, Dalkeith, Biggar, &c., with the Biggar band. The procession went from the Lodge Room in the Northgate to the Tontine, where it was met by Sir John Hay of Haystoun (Provincial Grand Master), Sir William Nasmyth of Posso, Mr Adam Hay, William Forbes Mackenzie of Portmore, Colonel Hay (Coldstream Guards), R. N. Campbell of Kailzie, Mr Laurie, Mr Bertram (Grand Clerk), with the Chaplain and Tyler of the Grand Lodge, the Magistrates and Town Council, the Incorporations and Trades, and other inhabitants of Peebles. The whole assemblage moved in order to the Parish Church, where a sermon, characterised as "most pathetic," was delivered by Rev. Alexander Stewart, of Douglas, Grand Chaplain. The dress and decorations of the brethren were gorgeous, and the scene was impressive. The bodies composing the procession lined each side of the approach to the bridge, while the P. G. M. and office-bearers, accompanied by the municipal authorities, marched to the centre, "forming a circle round the spot," while the band played "God save the King." "The bed of the keystone having been prepared on

the north arch and east side, a hole was cut in the keystone, and there was deposited in it a bottle containing the *Scotsman* and other newspapers of the day, with the present king's coin and some others." The usual ceremonies having been performed, the corn, wine, and oil duly poured out, tremendous cheering rent the air, and the band again struck up some inspiring music. The Chaplain offered up prayer, the P. G. M. made a short speech, Provost Turnbull replied, and the procession reformed and marched to the Tontine, where dinner was provided, and where again oratory flowed forth and toasts were duly honoured.

Next year Sir John Hay, Bart., was returned to Parliament without a contest, and thereafter the voters were entertained to dinner in six houses opened for the purpose at the member's expense. *Tempora mutantur!* Sir John's agents began to canvass the town and county in June 1835; so also did Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael of Skirling for his son. The Liberal electors "dined" Mr Alexander Carmichael in August in the Tontine, after escorting him with flags and banners from Neidpath Toll. In return he "gave a dinner" to the electors in the same hotel on 16th September, the day after Sir John Hay had entertained his friends in the Harrow Inn. People had not then heard of the "Corrupt Practices (Election) Act."

In 1836 another great Masonic demonstration was made at the laying of the foundation stone of St Peter's Episcopal Chapel by the Master of the

Canongate Kilwinning Lodge. It seems from the notice in the Gutterbluid Club book that the stone is laid on the north-east corner next the street. The chapel was consecrated on 19th April 1837.

A terrific thunderstorm is chronicled in June 1836. It began at four o'clock A.M., continued till 11 P.M., and did a good deal of damage in the country. It was said to have been almost universal over Scotland.

William IV. died on 20th June 1837, and on the 24th June proclamation was made at Peebles of the ascension of Queen Victoria.

Mention is made in these pages of the severe winter of 1895. The secretary of the club refers to February 1838 thus:—"The storm of frost and snow on the night of the G.B. meeting. The club being met in Gideon Wallace's, the streets being a complete board of ice, some of the members on their way to the meeting had to return home to their houses, as they could not walk to the Old Town owing to the slipperiness; and when the meeting dismissed some members had to put on crampets, and others took off their shoes and walked on their 'stocking soles for safety.' The storm being on the ground five weeks previous to this meeting (9th February), mild weather did not come till after the 6th of March. . . . The wells in the town and pipes leading to the wells were all frozen, as well as the gasometer, so that there was no gas light; and on the 12th of March the lead pipes along the street to St Mungo's Well from the reservoir having burst

at several places, the Town Council required to take up the old and lay down new pipes. Thereafter a second storm commenced, and the first fresh day was on the 27th March — the storm having lasted twelve weeks."

Sir John Hay died at Rome on 1st November 1838, and his remains were interred in the vault at the Cross Kirk. His funeral being public, the Masonic Lodge turned out, and there was a large crowd of people. Sir John was much esteemed. He had made himself very popular with the inhabitants.

A great storm of wind, accompanied with snow, took place on January 4, 1839; and trees were torn up by the roots at Neidpath, Kailzie, Traquair, Pirn, and other places. A part of Neidpath Castle roof was actually carried off and landed near the avenue gate, and the old mansion-house of Polmood was blown down; while news came from sea of shipwrecks and much loss of life.

In autumn of the same year the Tweed and Soonhope were both in high flood, and did much damage. The bridge across the Leithen, half a mile above Innerleithen Manse, was carried away (it has since been rebuilt), and the road was rendered impassable. Traquair Knowe bridge was also swept into the raging stream, as well as bridges over Newhall Burn and at Orchardmains.

In July 1843 there was a thunderstorm, which began about 4 P.M. and continued till 10.30 P.M. Between thirty and forty ewes and lambs were killed on Edstone farm.

The foundation of the new County Hall was laid on 5th September 1843 by W. F. Mackenzie, M.P., and there was another grand Masonic demonstration —Rev. William Bliss officiating as Chaplain. The evening was spent "as Masons usually do, with toasts and songs, &c.," in the Tontine.

Wombwell's Menagerie of wild beasts came to Peebles on 9th February 1850. "On the way to the town several of the caravans were blown over at Lyne's Mill by the violence of a gale which was blowing; and, while putting their horses right for the night in the Crown Inn stables, fire broke out and burned the building. However, six horses were got out with great difficulty by Mr Macpherson, the landlord, and those who came to his assistance."

A Roman Catholic service was begun by the Rev. James Clapperton in the old workshop of Mr James Turnbull, which was fitted up as a chapel at Lord Traquair's expense.

The Horticultural Exhibition was instituted in September 1850, and has continued since that time one of the best societies in the south of Scotland. For many years Mr John Stirling was the energetic and enthusiastic secretary, and much of its early success was due to his labours.

An accident to the coach took place at Penicuik on 30th November in the same year, when James Stewart, the driver, was killed on the spot, and several passengers were severely hurt.

It is also recorded in the club minutes that Mr George Donaldson died on 1st August 1851, at

the age of 86. He had held for half a century the honorary office of reader and precentor to the Parish Church—an appointment, it appears, in the gift of the Earl of March, the remuneration for which was the vicarage teinds (excepting lamb's wool). He was the last "vicar" in Scotland, for all other "vicars" had vanished long before. Somehow he remained the solitary relic of a forgotten past. He precented at various times in the church, and his salary was £5 a year.

On the 9th of August 1853, the first sod was cut for the Peebles Railway at Dovecot Park by Lady G. Graham Montgomery in presence of a vast number of people. A marquee was erected, in order that there might be a banquet of wine and cake; and a public dinner, presided over by Sir G. Graham Montgomery, Bart., M.P., was held in the Tontine. The Provost at the time was Mr Stuart, W.S., who performed his duties with great acceptance, felicitously returning thanks to the toast of the Magistrates and Council. The first engine arrived with trucks at the station (near the Cross Kirk) on the 2d of April 1855, and on the next day the "Fair Trader" coach left Peebles on its last journey to Edinburgh! The railway passenger traffic was opened! On the following day "caller haddies" were proclaimed by a Fisherrow fishwife in the streets; and henceforth Peebles was embraced within the bounds of civilisation!

The first funeral by rail was that of Mrs Reid, widow of Dr John Reid, already alluded to. Her

body was brought from Glasgow on 14th February 1856.

The venerable bridge, with its high arch, so familiar to older inhabitants, over "Peebles Water," or the Cuddy, was removed, and a new one erected, which was formally opened by Mr W. F. Mackenzie, P.G.M., with much ceremony on 11th August 1857. The old bridge had seen many changes. It had witnessed the drowning of Thomas Paterson in 1623 for sheep-stealing; and it had remained long after the chapel to the Virgin had disappeared, with all its associations with pre-Reformation times.

On the same day the foundation of the Chambers Institution Hall was laid with equal Masonic ceremonial; and the festivities at its completion and the handing over the whole edifice to a committee took place in 1859.

Peebles has been remarkable for "foundation stones," for once again in August 1860 His Grace the Duke of Athole, G.W.M. for Scotland, and a brilliant galaxy, laid the stone of the Corn Exchange behind the Town Hall, and presided in the Chambers Hall at a banquet in the evening.

On 16th of December 1863 the first engine with trucks arrived at the Caledonian Station; and on 1st October 1864 the N.B. branch to Innerleithen was opened for traffic.

CHAPTER VI.

THE PEEBLESSHIRE SOCIETY.

THE "PEEBLESSHIRE SOCIETY" is the second oldest of the kind in Scotland. It dates from 1782. There were at that time several young men from Peebles resident in Edinburgh, and engaged in various employments. A bright idea seems to have struck one of them—that it would be pleasant to unite in a society, at whose meetings they might have the opportunity of social intercourse, by means of which they could maintain and strengthen their interest in their native town. The suggestion having been made to one or two, effect was soon given to it. So, on a cold winter evening—that of the 2d December 1782—a small but select party of Peebleans met by appointment in "Anderson's Inn," Lawnmarket.

This house of entertainment has long since disappeared, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to tell where it stood. It is of little consequence, however, inasmuch as the society did not meet in it on more than two or three occasions. The result of the deliberations was embodied in a resolution, the original of which is still preserved, written out on a half sheet of long paper, and signed by the

founders of the society. It is this:—"We, subscribers, resolve to constitute a club, called the Peeblean Society, and for this purpose to meet four times in the year: That a committee of all the subscribers, any three to be a quorum, shall meet on first, and adjourn from time to time as they shall think fit, in order to draw up regulations, to be revised by the first general meeting, which is hereby appointed to be held in Tavern the day of next. In witness whereof we have subscribed this Resolution at Edinburgh the second day of December One thousand seven hundred and eighty-two years. (Signed) Wm. Marshall, James Anderson, Alex. Marshall, Alex. Williamson, David Anderson, J. Sommers, James Cairns, R. Ballantine, Will. Little, John Bartram, Wm. Murray, John Little, Will. Little, John Shiells, Robert Sanderson, John Murray Robertson, Jas. Robertson." The signatures of others have been added as they joined the society. It is a document worthy of preservation.

The committee met on the 7th December in the same tavern, and it is interesting to know who they were and what they did. "In consequence of the prefixed Resolution, the committee met this date in the house of John Anderson, innkeeper, Lawnmarket. The members present were:—Mr William Little, sen.; Mr James Sommers, Mr James Anderson, Mr Robert Ballantyne, Mr Alex. Williamson, Mr Alexander Marshall, Mr John Bartram, Mr John Little. Mr Sommers chosen

preses of the committee. Mr Bartram then presented to the committee a draught *(sic)* of Regulations, which, being considered by the members present, they unanimously agreed to and resolved upon the Regulations underwritten as well adapted to the right government of the society, and appointed the same to be adhered to and observed by said society untill it should be thought expedient to alter or revoke the same." They are to the effect that the society shall consist only of gentlemen, *born*, *educated*, or *resident* in the town of Peebles; that a Preses, Secretary, and Clerk should be appointed by the committee, who shall officiate at the first general meeting of the society, which is hereby appointed to be held on the last Wednesday of January next in the house of Mr Dunbar, vintner, Liberton's Wynd; that a general meeting of the society shall be held four times a year — on the last Wednesdays of January, April, July, and November; that the house of meeting shall be decided upon by a majority of the members present; *that at each meeting a supper shall be ordered to be provided, not exceeding eightpence a head, and to be upon the table precisely at eight o'clock, of which entertainment the Preses, Secretary, and Clerk shall be the sole managers, subject always to the foregoing restriction; and, further, they shall be obliged to call a bill precisely at 11 o'clock, when the meeting shall be dissolved;* that a fine of threepence sterling be imposed on any member not present within fifteen minutes after eight; that an absentee from the quarterly or general meeting shall be fined one shilling; that

the fine shall be applied by the secretary in part payment of the next bill, or as he shall be directed by a majority of votes; that the entry money shall be sixpence, to defray incidental expenses, such as a sederunt book and tickets for the members; that in the case of new office-bearers being elected they shall only commence the day following their election, when the former shall give up their charge; that the committee be appointed at each meeting to examine the accounts and minutes; and that from and after this seventh day of December 1782 no person shall be admitted a member of the society unless at a quarterly meeting, and then only by a majority of votes, which are to be given by ballot."

Thus with the greatest care and legal skill were the regulations drawn out. It may be that through an Act of Parliament it is possible, as we have been told, to drive a coach and six, but it would be very difficult to perform that feat through these rules, which so zealously guard the operations of this society.

It appears that the preses chosen for the first general meeting of the Peeblean Society, which was to be held on the 29th of January 1783, was Mr William Little; the secretary, Mr James Sommers; the clerk, Mr Robert Ballantyne.

The eventful evening at length arrived, and thirteen members assembled in Mr Dunbar's, Liberton's Wynd. These were:—Mr William Little, sen., preses; Mr James Sommers, secretary; Mr Robert Ballantyne, clerk; Messrs William Murray, William

Marshall, John Bartram, John Little, David Anderson, Alex. Marshall, Alex. Williamson, James Anderson, Charles Wardrobe, James Marshall. After formally adopting the above regulations, a vice-preses was chosen to act in case of the absence of the preses; and it was resolved that "gentlemen not residing in Edinburgh, upon being found qualified, shall be elected *honorary* members, but shall not be lyable to the fines and forfeitures of the society's regulations, nor have the power to vote in the society." Mr Charles Wardrobe was a student of medicine, whose petition for admission being found satisfactory, he was enrolled, along with Mr James Marshall, of the town of Peebles, who, at his own desire, was elected an honorary member. The new office-bearers were:—Mr William Murray, preses; Mr John Bartram, secretary; Mr Robert Ballantyne, clerk; Mr James Sommers, vice-preses. The business having been transacted, there is no doubt, though the minutes are silent on the subject, that supper was partaken of, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk—"The King," "The Army and Navy," "Confusion to the enemies of Britain." Probably also "William Pitt," then rising into fame, was duly honoured; and the "Good Burgh" was certainly not forgotten. Would that we knew the stories told at the festive board on that winter night! Would that we knew the different opinions expressed about the "men of light and leading" in the quiet town! Would that we could hear the topics of conversation about

affairs in Peebles—about the abandonment of the old Cross Kirk, and the erection of the new church at the head of the High Street; about the old buildings that had been removed, relics of a bygone age; about the members' own school-days, the games on Tweed Green, and the roamings over the green rolling hills. Many of the founders could repeat tales their fathers or aged people in the town had told them of "the former days," even beyond the '45; back, indeed, almost to the beginning of the eighteenth century. How intensely interesting to us now would be the information they possessed! But these worthies have all disappeared long ago, and with them an invaluable mass of lore and tradition. They were intimately acquainted with a town the condition of which, and the society in which, at the close of the last century, we can only faintly realise.

Liberton's Wynd, where this meeting was held, has been reckoned famous, not so much for Mrs or "Lucky" Dunbar's inn, as for that of John Dowie, which was a resort of the Lords of Session when their day's work was over. It was the haunt of Robert Fergusson, the poor, unfortunate poet, to whom in Canongate Churchyard a stone was reared by Robert Burns; of Robert Burns himself; and it was the rendezvous of such men as David Herd, Henry Raeburn, and others of note in the city. In this close Henry Mackenzie, the "Man of Feeling," was born (1745), and about the time of which we write he frequented Mrs Dunbar's. Here, too, was

the Misses Preston's boarding school — one of the most celebrated in Edinburgh—in which the ladies received "the greatest attention to their morals, behaviour, and every branch of education." Moreover, it appears there was a "lock-up" in the wynd; and, not far from the top of it, a gibbet, the site of which can still be pointed out, was occasionally erected. At the east end of the Luckenbooths stood the shop of Creech, the celebrated bookseller.

It is worthy of record that in April, 1783, at a meeting of committee in "Lucky" Dunbar's, it was agreed to purchase "a silver medal with the Arms of the Society engraved" upon it, and a "ribbon or sash of the colour of the Town of Peebles livery," in order that it might be hung hereafter round the neck of the preses at the general meetings; and a "white iron box" for keeping the books, papers, with other articles belonging to the society. That medal is still worn at the annual dinner by the chairman, though the ribbon has been renewed from time to time. Another medal and two snuff horns were presented a few years afterwards, but to these we shall have occasion to allude at the proper time. At the quarterly general meeting in July, 1783, Captain George Munro, late of the 85th Regiment of Foot, Patrick Honeyman of Graemsay, Esq., and William Ker of Kerfield, Esq., were elected honorary members; while in November, Thomas Alexander, Esq., Provost of Peebles, was added to the list, and Mr John Shiells,

surgeon, with Mr Robert Laidlaw, merchant, were admitted as ordinary members.

In 1784 the committee were dissatisfied with the entertainment at Mrs Dunbar's, and they selected the house of Mr Thomas Somers. It was a tavern in the High Street, opposite the Guard House; and though not so renowned as either Mrs Dunbar's or John Dowie's, it apparently pleased remarkably well, as no fewer than 28 minutes are dated in it down to 1791. From 1792 to 1794 the meetings were transferred to "Mrs Mason's," and thence they were brought back to Liberton's Wynd, where they were held in Mr Robertson's "house" till 1797. At this period the Society seems to have collapsed. It was, however, revived in 1804.

Returning to its earlier days we find that on the 28th January 1784, seventeen gentlemen were present. This was the largest number during the period, the average being twelve. The following is a list of honorary and ordinary members added up till 1797:—

28th January 1784.

Honorary. Mr Alexander Veitch.
Alexander Stevenson of Smithfield, Esq.
Francis Russell, Esq. (Quebec Hall).
Mr Robert Marshall, Surgeon in Peebles.
Mr George Law, Watchmaker in Peebles.

28th April.

Mr Thomas Brown, of the town of Peebles.
Mr Thomas Ballantyne, in Craig of Douglas.

Mr John Grieve, in Eshiels.
Mr John Johnston, and } Peebles.
Mr James Bertram, }

28th July.

Mr James Ballantyne, Surgeon, R.N.

24th November.

Mr William Brunton, in Bonnington.

26th January 1785.

Rev. William Dalgleish, minister of Peebles.

27th April.

John Robertson, Esq., Commissary of Peebles.

27th July.

Mr Gideon Needham, at Darnhall.
Mr William Laidlaw, jun., "Woollandslee."
Captain Grieve, in Peebles.
Mr Alexander Gray, in Lyne.
Mr James Brown, yr., of Edmonstone.

25th January 1786.

Mr James Gray, Master of the English School, Peebles.
Mr James Honeyman, son of Patrick Honeyman of Graemsay, Esq.

26th April 1786.

Ordinary. Mr John Murray Robertson, Writer in Edinburgh.
Mr James Robertson, student of Physic.

26th July.

Honorary. Mr Walter Ritchie.

29th November.

Mr Patrick Honeyman.

31st January 1787.

Mr William Harper.

25th July.

Lieut. William Munro, 51st Regiment of Foot.

28th November.

Mr Thomas Sommers, Surgeon, Leith.
Mr Arthur Bishop, Student of Medicine.
Mr Arthur Inglis, Surgeon, Regiment of Foot.
Ordinary. Mr William Bartram.

30th January 1788.

Mr James Bartram.

30th July.

Mr John Burton, Writer, Edinburgh.
Mr Charles Oram, Student of Medicine.

26th November.

Mr James Robertson.
Honorary. Mr James Ker at Kerfield.

28th January 1789.

Mr Thomas Horsburgh, Tenant in Lee.

29th April.

Mr Thomas Sanderson.

The minutes are a blank till 28th July 1790, only the dates being filled in. On this occasion the following were elected members:—

Ordinary. Mr William Ker.
Mr John Ker.

Mr Alexander Gray.
Mr Roderick Mackenzie.
Mr John Henderson.
Mr Arthur Hog.
Honorary. Mr William Turner, in Peebles.
Mr Robert Ker, son of William Ker of Kerfield, Esq.

30th November 1791.

Ordinary. Mr James Tweedie.
Mr John Riddell.

25th January 1792.

Mr John Tweedie.
Mr John Balfour.
Mr William Cossar, Baker in Leith.

25th April.

Honorary Mr Jo. Miller, Student in Peebles.
Mr Peter Ramsay, Supervisor of Excise.

25th July.

Ordinary. Mr Robert Tweedie.
Honorary. Mr James Oman, son of Mr William Oman, Schoolmaster in Peebles.

30th January 1793.

Mr Alexander Murray Bartram.

1st May.

Mr David Williamson
Mr James Ballantyne, yr., of Holylee.
Ordinary. Mr James Fraser, } Writers in Edinburgh.
Mr John Smith, }

31st July 1793.

Honorary. Dr George Weir.
Mr Robert Tweedie, Langhaugh.

29th January 1794.

Ordinary. Mr Alexander Hislop.

30th April.

Mr James Brown, Writer in Edinburgh.
Mr James Little, Writer ,,
Mr John Milne, Founder and Ironmonger, Edinburgh.
Mr Robert Handyside, Writer, Edinburgh.

30th July.

Mr William Waugh, Baker, Leith.
Honorary. Mr John Hislop, Peebles.

29th April 1795.

Mr William Oman, second son of Mr Oman, Schoolmaster in Peebles.
Mr William Burton, eldest son of Mr James Burton, Ladyurd.

27th January 1796.

Ordinary. Mr George Robertson, Merchant in Leith.

27th July.

Mr Robert Reid, Architect, Edinburgh.

30th November.

Honorary. Mr John Stewart.
Mr Robert Riddell.
Mr James Reid.

At this period there comes the collapse which has been referred to. Why it was that interest for a time ceased in the society cannot be exactly discovered. Many of the members had indeed settled in Peebles, and it was very inconvenient to go

to Edinburgh, especially during the winter months; some also, as appears from the minutes, had gone to foreign parts; and towards the close of the century affairs in the country were very unsettled. The names of the members have been given, because no inconsiderable number represented families well known in the burgh and county. The first name on the separate sheet, which bears the resolution under which the society was founded (and which, till there was no more space, each member on admission signed), is that of Mr William Marshall, who became minister of the Parish of Manor, and some of whose descendants are still connected with the club. The third is his brother, Mr Alexander Marshall, who was a jeweller in Edinburgh, well known and highly respected. The fourth is Mr Alexander Williamson, who, at the time of the formation of the society, was serving his apprenticeship with Messrs Cranston & Anderson, W.S., and became afterwards town-clerk of Peebles. There appears the name of Mr James Summers, who was also a writer in Peebles, and to whom Mr Williamson succeeded as town-clerk. Mr James Cairns became likewise a writer in the burgh, as did Mr John Bartram, Mr William Murray, and Mr John Little. The family of Bartram was largely represented in the society. Mr James Bartram was secretary for nearly fifty years. Mr Stevenson of Smithfield was Sheriff for a considerable time, and occupied the house now known as Venlaw. Mr Francis Russell is referred to at

page 20, and Dr Dalgleish was of course a prominent personage. Mr John Robertson, Commissary, as has been mentioned, came from Elgin, and his family was connected with the Robertsons of Eddlestone. The Kers of Kerfield were celebrated as brewers, and the old houses which were used as a brewery still exist. Mr Oman was the highly respected master of the Grammar School, and Mr John Burton, of whom more remains to be said, lived in Minden, close by the town. It is impossible to trace the fortunes of the descendants of the large majority of those who formed the Society up to 1796, but none of them, as far as can be discovered, have now any representatives in Peeblesshire.

We can hardly imagine the appearance of Edinburgh in the year 1782. In the High Street was the Tolbooth, and the Luckenbooths were around St Giles', while the Lawnmarket was still the residence of many of the elite of society. The closes were not cleared away to prepare for Bank Street on the one side, and Melbourne Place on the other. The Mound had no existence; the only passage from the Old Town to the scattered houses and broad fields on the north was by stepping-stones, which enabled the pedestrian to cross the fetid marsh where, in the distant past, the waters of the Nor' Loch had sparkled in the summer sun, and boats had plied from shore to shore. Princes Street had indeed ceased to be called the "Lang Gait," but the houses only straggled westward to where is now Hanover Street. Here and there was a house marking the

line of future thoroughfares, as in Frederick Street and Castle Street. The Register House was not finished, and two oil lamps still adorned the entrance, for gas was not yet. George Street was even less populous than Princes Street. St Andrew's and St George's Churches had not appeared. The view was unobstructed towards the Forth, with its smacks plying between Leith and the "Kingdom" of Fife; and hedgerows and green fields lay beyond Queen Street. "Wood's Farm," with its steading, was a pleasant resort, not far from the present "Wemyss Place." Bearford Parks, with the cottages, stretched towards St Cuthbert's or the West Kirk, at Kirkbraehead. No one dreamed then of railways or railway stations, before which the rural character of the environs was to disappear. The North Bridge had been finished, but not the South Bridge. The University was in course of enlargement and improvement. Away to the south, Nicolson Street, with the statue of Lady Nicolson, led to a quiet pleasant sweep of country. The Theatre, where the Post Office now stands, was in existence, but the "gorge" on its east side was not spanned by the Waterloo Bridge. Calton Hill was let as a farm, and on its brow Hallow Fair was regularly held. The city was badly lit up with its meagre supply of oil lamps. The City Guard formed a feeble and uncertain protection for the citizens' lives and properties. Sedan chairs were numerous, and hackney coaches rare and rickety. The Lord Provost was Mr John Grieve,

merchant, whose dwelling-house was in Strichen's Close—a name it received from an aristocratic inhabitant, Fraser of Strichen, sometime known as Lord Strichen, one of the judges of the Court of Session. Mr Grieve afterwards removed to more fashionable quarters, and took up his residence at the corner of Hanover Street, where he became the friend and patron of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd. It was by Mr Grieve's influence that the earth and rubbish from the foundations of the new streets were carted to the stagnant, filthy Nor' Loch. This was the origin of the "Mound," which was to be one of the avenues of communication between the north and south parts of the city. The first cart-loads had been emptied into the quagmire when this society was launched upon the world. The directories of Edinburgh, which contained the names of the principal citizens, were then very small, and the celebrated Mr Peter Williamson had in preparation a volume which was to be more exhaustive, to give more general information about conveyances to different parts of the country, and to be in all respects more useful. Mennon's "New Town and Country Almanack" was published, and dedicated to the Earl of Buchan and the Society of Antiquaries. Coaches from the Tron Church proceeded regularly every hour or so across the new bridge by the "handsome road" to Leith, the time spent on the way being about an hour and a half. There was a coach to London, the journey occu-

pying two or three days, and once or twice a week a coach was also run to Glasgow.

The Rev. Dr Webster, well known for his efforts to establish the Ministers' Widows' Fund, lived then in the Lawnmarket. As minister of the Tolbooth Church he was popular, and his genial companionship was much appreciated. He had been determined in his opposition to the Pretender in the '45, and had never made a secret of his warm attachment to the Hanoverian cause. The Rev. Dr Macknight, well known as an author, lived in Nicolson Street, and was familiar, Lord Cockburn tells, in the Meadows with his "enormous white wig girdled by many tiers of curls, his old snuffy black clothes, his broad flat feet, and his threadbare blue coat." The Rev. Dr John Erskine resided in Lauriston; he "had a neat, well-kept, jet black wig, and was all soul and no body." "Jupiter" Carlyle came in often from Inveresk, and met with Sir Henry Moncrieff, Dr Thomas Hardy, Dr Drysdale, and other prominent ministers of the day, foremost of whom was Principal Robertson.

(Somewhat later than this period, in 1795 and 1796, there was a famine, during the existence of which it is said 11,000 persons were fed by charity in Edinburgh. Lord Cockburn says:—"A public proclamation specified the exact quantity of bread each family ought to consume, being a loaf, if I recollect rightly, for each individual weekly." Public kitchens for soup, &c., were introduced,

and every expedient conceivable was devised to feed the population.)

Among the legal lights of Edinburgh were Lord Monboddo, Lord Kames, Lord Hailes, Henry Erskine, John Clark, Adam Gillies, Charles Hope, Sir James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron; Robert Dundas, Robert Blair.

In 1782, Henry Brougham was a boy of three years old, living in St Andrew Square. His father had resided for a time at the Cowgatehead, but after his marriage with Miss Syme he removed to the new town. Francis Horner was four years old, and Francis Jeffrey was nine. No one predicted the future eminence of these lads. Walter Scott had reached his eleventh year, and was being educated at the High School. He had already begun to cherish the traditions and ballads of Scotland, and, unconsciously to himself, to prepare for the position he was to occupy as the "Mighty Minstrel," the "Magician," the "Great Unknown."

Such was Edinburgh at the period when this society was instituted. The majority of its founders were serving their apprenticeship in the offices of Writers to the Signet, and in consequence were frequently in the Court of Session, which was somewhat different in appearance from what it is now. They were familiar with the figures and voices of the occupants of the bench, and we can picture them in their strolls along the High Street, respectfully saluting the judges returning home clad in their official robes, and the ministers who with cocked hats, knee

breeches, silver buckles, and black gowns, passed up and down in the discharge of their pastoral duties; encountering the Sedan chairs, which conveyed ladies to make their state calls; the City Guard, of not much use in times of trouble; mingling with the general mass of citizens, and watching the school-boys in their blue, green, or scarlet waistcoats and overcoats.

No doubt the founders of the society shared the unprecedented excitement when Mrs Siddons made her appearance in Edinburgh. That was a most memorable occasion. The *Edinburgh Weekly Magazine* says that after the first night the manager took the precaution to have an officer's guard of soldiers at the principal door, but as these veterans had used their bayonets in the crush they were quickly dispensed with. The crowds began to assemble at 11 o'clock in the forenoon! Thomas Campbell writes—"The grave attention of my Scottish countrymen, and the canny reservation of praise till they were sure she had deserved it, had well nigh worn out her patience. . . . At last, as I well remember, she told me she coiled up all her power to the most emphatic possible utterance of one passage, having previously vowed in her heart that if *this* could not touch the Scots she would never again cross the Tweed. When it was finished, she looked to the audience. The deep silence was broken only by a single voice exclaiming, 'That's no bad!' This ludicrous parsimony of praise convulsed the audience with laughter. But the laugh was followed

by such thunders of applause that, amidst her stunned and nervous agitation, she was not without fear of the galleries coming down." This was in May 1793. Some of the members of the Peeblesshire Society were present in the theatre, and bore witness to the truth of the story.

In January 1785, "The meeting unanimously ordered a silver medal and sash similar to, though of a smaller size than the one worn by the preses, to be made and to be worn by the secretary."

In September 1786, among those present at a committee meeting was the venerable Mr William Oman of the Grammar School, styled in the minute "Pater Societatis," on account of his age.

In January 1791, Mr John Bartram "represented to the meeting that he had long enjoyed the honourable situation of secretary to the society, and could not think of farther depriving the other members of the pleasure they would feel in being honoured with the appointment, and in executing the duties of that office, begg'd leave to resign." The delicate manner in which Mr Bartram conveys the fact of his desire to be relieved cannot fail to elicit admiration. His resignation was accepted, and his son Mr James was appointed in his place.

1804.

As has been already mentioned, no meetings seem to have been held from 25th January 1797 for a period of seven years. A minute, of date 23rd June 1804, bears that "at a party of Peebles friends

met in Mr William Murray's (private house—he was a member of the Society), the subject of this society having been started after dinner, it was agreed upon by the following gentlemen, viz.:—Mr William Murray, Mr James Crichton, Mr John Little, Mr James Little, Mr James Bartram (the late secretary), that the members of the Social Peeblean Society should be requested to meet in Sommers' Tavern on Saturday the 14th day of July at 4 o'clock, in order to take into consideration the propriety of reviving that society, and they requested Mr Bartram to write cards to all the members in town, and to get the box with the sederunt book, &c., from Mr John Robertson, vintner, in whose house the last meeting was held." This having been attended to, a meeting of "Peebles scholars" duly assembled at the time and place above specified—nine being present—and it was unanimously resolved that the S.P.S. should be revived, but in place of four meetings in the year it was agreed to have an annual meeting only, on the last Saturday of January—the first annual dinner to be held in Mr Sommers' Tavern on Saturday, 26th January 1805, at 4 o'clock afternoon; this meeting to be advertised in the *Edinburgh Courant* and *Advertiser* eight days previous to the meeting, and the secretary to send cards to all the members in town. The "whip" proved effective, for there assembled nineteen gentlemen on the appointed day. Mr William Murray, writer, Edinburgh, was preses, and Mr James Bartram

resumed his old post of secretary. As it is interesting to know who were present at the revival of the society, the following list is subjoined:—Messrs John Little, merchant, Edinburgh; John Russell, writer, do.; John Ker, W.S.; John R. Riddell, W.S.; John Tweedie, W.S.; James Little, W.S.; Robert Reid, architect, Edinburgh; William Fraser, merchant, do.; John Murray, writer, do.; William Laidlaw, mathematician, do.; Adam Anderson, tinsmith, do.; Charles Young, wood merchant, Leith; James Inglis, merchant, do.; William Cadell, wine merchant, do.; Alex. Henderson, seedsman, do.; Lieut. Alex. Gray, 79th Regiment of Foot, honorary member. "The meeting unanimously and cordially agree to revive the S.P.S., and pledge themselves to support and encourage the society as now revived, and to meet on the last Saturday of January annually, in such house as may be agreed upon by the preses, vice-preses, secretary, and the three oldest members present, any three to be a quorum." Another item of interest in the minute is that "Collector Crichton of Irvine proposed to mount the horn belonging to the society, which has been done accordingly, in a very handsome manner, with silver; and the secretary had authority from Mr Crichton to present it to the society in its present state." For this mark of attention the best thanks of the society were returned to Mr Crichton. [This re-mounted horn is still circulated at the dinner table of the society.]

The annual meetings were thereafter held either in Oman's Tavern or in Fortune's Tavern, and for a long series of years in the Royal Exchange Coffee House. Mr Sommers having retired, they could no longer assemble under his roof. The meeting in 1806 was very successful, 21 gentlemen being present; Mr James Anderson, cooper, Leith, preses, and Mr John Ker, W.S., vice-preses. Among the company were Mr William Laidlaw, who for the first time appears as "chaplin," and Provost James Ker of Peebles.

The ordinary members admitted were:—Messrs John Swan, tanner, Edinburgh; William Brydon, W.S., do.; Alexander Goldie, W.S., do.; Thomas Noble, hosier, do.; James Milne, founder, do.; Andrew Handyside, merchant, do.; Robert Dudgeon, corn merchant, do.; William Sanderson, candle-maker, do.; while, as honorary members, were:—Messrs James Sloane of the Grammar School, Peebles; John Reid, surgeon, Peebles; James Marshall, jun., tanner, Peebles. This is the first minute which throws any light on the manner in which the evening was passed, for it concludes by mentioning that, "as originally intended, it was spent in real Peeblean Sociality."

At the meeting held the following year a grievous complaint was made against Mr Oman, the landlord of the tavern. He had received due intimation to provide a dinner for 20, and keep a room for that number; yet, when the society met, the table was laid in a room "not sufficient to contain nearly

that number with comfort;" further, that agreeably to the rules of the society, the secretary had requested Mr Oman to furnish him with the bill at 8 o'clock, but he could not obtain it till past 10 o'clock, and not till Oman had, without being desired, furnished the company with "speldings," for which he made a charge of 2s a head. These things considered, the secretary submitted to the society if they had experienced that civility and attention which they were entitled to, and whether, in these circumstances, the society would feel inclined to continue their meetings at this house.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Fortune's Tavern was next selected. It was situated in the Stamp Office Close, and was considered a fashionable and very expensive inn. It had been at one time the residence of the Earl of Eglinton and his beautiful Countess, Susanna Kennedy. The old "Wig Club," and other convivial clubs, were wont to meet in it; while, for years, the Lord High Commissioners to the General Assembly held their entertainments in two of its largest apartments. But, notwithstanding its high character for respectability, it did not seem to please all parties; for, in January 1808, the secretary reported that he had received, in answer to his invitation card, a letter from a former member—Mr John Burton, Sheriff-Substitute of the County, and adjutant to the Peebles Volunteers—who apparently deemed it his duty to lecture the members on their extravagance, for he said—"I think a dinner in D.

Douglas's, or some such place, would have answered the pockets of most of the members much better than a two-guinea hit at Fortune's." This communication was deemed insulting, and little wonder; so Mr Burton's name was erased at once from the "Books of the Society." In spite of the cold water thrown on the meeting, it is pleasant to be assured "that the evening was as usual spent with much harmony and conviviality, and the party dismissed, highly gratified, at a proper hour."

On 28th January 1809, the company numbered 29, and among those admitted as members on the occasion were Provost Smibert of Peebles; the Rev. Dr John Lee, minister of Peebles; and Mr Brydon, surgeon, Peebles. From this time, Dr Lee, afterwards Principal of the University of Edinburgh, attended with much regularity these annual gatherings. For a few years before his death, in 1860, he was unable to be present, but his interest in the society, and in everything connected with Peebles, never flagged.

Among those members admitted in 1810 were Mr John Welsh, writer, Edinburgh, afterwards agent for the British Linen Company's Bank, Peebles; the Rev. Mr Brunton, Edinburgh, who for many years filled the charge of the Tron Church, and was appointed Professor of Oriental Languages in the University; Professor Haldane of St Andrews (late of Drummelzier), who was proposed by Dr Lee. It was at this meeting

that, in room of Mr William Laidlaw, deceased, Dr Lee was appointed chaplain, a post he filled for fifty years; and that five shillings of entry money was fixed.

At the meeting in January 1811, "in Mrs Ferguson's Tavern," among the new members were Mr Robert Forrester, treasurer, Bank of Scotland, a descendant of Provost Forrester of Peebles, who flourished about the beginning of the 18th century, and who is alluded to in page 33, and Mr John Turnbull, baker, Peebles, the lineal descendant of the Turnbulls, whose names have several times been mentioned. Mr Brunton was appointed assistant chaplain to the Society.

In January 1813, the Rev. Mr Buchanan, minister of Peebles, was admitted an honorary member; and in 1814 a company, numbering 32, met in Oman's Tavern once more, under the presidency of James Ker, Esq., Provost of Peebles, and of John Thorburn, Esq., Leith, V.-P. Dr Lee was Professor in St Andrews by this time, but he was present as chaplain; as also General Dickson of Kilbucho, and John Welsh, W.S. Among those admitted were Adam Hay, Esq., son of Sir John Hay, Bart.; Mr Elliot, teacher of the English School, Peebles; Mr James Aikman, baker in Edinburgh; Rev. Dr Robertson of Eddlestone; William Rankin of Spittalhaugh; Alexander Stewart, farmer, Haystoun; William Burnett, Esq. of Barns. This meeting is remarkable for a subscription having been started for the poor in the burgh of Peebles,

who were suffering great privation. It was not to be asked from gentlemen as members of the Society, but as private individuals; and a sum of fifteen guineas was speedily subscribed and transmitted to the Provost, the Minister, and Mr A. Murray Bartram, to be applied in the purchase of coals, meal, and potatoes.

Mr John Thorburn presented "a ram's horn, elegantly tipped with silver, mounted also with silver, and pebble stone on the top, the Peebles Arms engraved on a plate of silver, and appendages, consisting of a hammer, silver snuff spoon, silver rake, silver and hare's foot, all suspended from the horn by five silver chains." The handsome gift, still exhibited at the annual dinner, was received with gratitude, and Mr Thorburn duly thanked.

The entry money was raised about this time to 10s 6d; after some years it was reduced again to 5s. The society was in debt to the secretary for a sum of £6 odds, but it was paid off by being added to the bill. For two winters the road from Peebles had been "unpassable" by reason of the deep snow, and, in 1816, it was agreed that the secretary open a correspondence with the friends in Peebles to appoint a more suitable month for the annual gathering. The only original member of the society present in 1816 was Mr William Murray, who had not been absent for twelve years, and accordingly he was named "father of the society," and instructed to "take his seat in future next to the chaplain's chair."

Mr James Robertson, W.S., son of Dr Robertson of Eddlestone, was admitted in 1817, at the meeting in which year it was agreed to alter the date of the annual dinner from January to June, in order to suit members in Peebles.

The change was not productive of good, for only 16 members assembled in the Exchange Coffee House on 28th June 1817. It was reported that the minute book had been bound in red morocco, with the Arms of Peebles stamped on the boards. It was resolved, as there was apparent reluctance on the part of the Peebles members to go to Edinburgh, that the society go to Peebles and hold a meeting there. Accordingly, on 11th October 1817, there was an extraordinary meeting in the Tontine Inn, at which 32 were present. Provost Ker was in the chair. The following is the list:—Alex. Henderson, Lord Dean of Guild of Edinburgh; John Little, merchant, Edinburgh; A. Murray Bartram of Temple Bar, Peebles; J. M. Robertson, commissary, Peebles; Dempster, druggist, Edinburgh; William Fraser, merchant, Edinburgh; John Murray, W.S., do.; Adam Anderson, merchant, do.; James Bartram, jun., writer, Peebles; William Laidlaw, Horsburgh Castle; Alexander Stewart, Haystoun; William Hunter of Glenormiston; John Brown, merchant, Edinburgh; Thomas Alexander, surgeon, Edinburgh; Robert Seton, Tweedside Lodge; John Thorburn, merchant, Leith; James Sloane, rector, Grammar School; William Murray,

jun., writer, Edinburgh; James Turnbull, wright, Peebles; Alex. Williamson, Town-Clerk, Peebles; James Brydon, surgeon, Peebles; Thomas Grieve, wright, Peebles; James Hay, writer, Edinburgh; William Bartram, merchant, Leith; Alex. Syme, shipbuilder, Leith; William Murray, W.S., Agent for the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh; Gideon Needham, Hallyards; Thomas Young of Rosetta; Rev. Dr Patrick Robertson, Eddlestone; Thomas Cadell, vice-preses; James Bartram, secretary. After dinner the "Lord Provost" was called to the chair, and the "evening was spent with much harmony and concord. Many local and appropriate toasts were drunk, and the 'Lord Provost' presented burgess tickets to all those gentlemen who had not hitherto had that honour conferred upon them."

The meetings in Edinburgh after this excursion were not very well attended, the general excuse being the expense of the entertainment. It was resolved that 12s a-head should cover everything. This was truly a great advance on the original sum of 8d, though apparently much less than the charge made in "Fortune's Tavern."

The metropolis was materially changed since 1782. The Lawnmarket, High Street, and Canongate had been deserted by the upper classes. The new town was rapidly extending northwards and westwards. George Square was a fashionable quarter of the city. Buccleuch Place was then the home of highly respected and successful mer-

chants. Sir Walter Scott had already charmed the world by *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, *Waverley*, and *Ivanhoe*. The peace of Europe had been secured by the Battle of Waterloo. The gallant "Black Watch" had returned to Edinburgh. On their arrival by the road from Musselburgh, they were met at the foot of the Canongate by an immense crowd of enthusiastic citizens, and, in passing Messrs Younger's Brewery, they received from the firm a welcome in the shape of a pot of ale handed to each man, to be quaffed on the spot as he proceeded upwards to the Castle. The Mound was now nearly finished. The "National Monument" was only begun. As there was considerable suffering amongst the poor, work was provided for them on Bruntsfield Links, from which the whins were to be cleared away; walks were made on Calton Hill, and a road formed along the face of Salisbury Crags.

In 1817, all classes were bowed in grief by the death of the Princess Charlotte, who was universally beloved, and for whom the Rev. Dr Andrew Thomson and Dr Chalmers preached funeral sermons, which are still referred to for their pathos, eloquence, and power.

In 1822, the secretary reported that Alexander Stewart, who had been officer to the Society for forty years, "fell over the Earthen Mound a few months ago, and was found dead at the bottom of the precipice."

In 1823, under the presidency of Alex. Henderson, Esq., "old Provost of Edinburgh," 46 gentlemen sat down to dinner. Among the new members were:—Sheriff-Depute Wood, Mr Allan of The Glen, Major Horsburgh, Walter Horsburgh, Esq., W.S., and several others.

In 1824, there were present 46 guests, and the chair was occupied by John Wood, Esq., advocate, Sheriff of Peebles. Among a large number admitted as members were:—Rev. William Steven, born at Peebles, and educated at its schools. (Mr Steven was minister in Rotterdam for several years, then he became head master of Heriot's Hospital, of which he published a history, and thereafter was minister of Trinity College Church); John Craig, cloth merchant, son of Mr Craig, Hattonknowe; John Fothringham, writer, born and educated in Peebles; Rev. Walter Tod, born at Nether Horsburgh, and educated in Peebles (elder brother of the Rev. Archibald Tod, who was first assistant to Rev. Dr Haldane of St Andrews, and next successor to Dr Burns in Tweedsmuir—died 1860); John Lawson of Cairnmuir, W.S. (representative of an old family, after one of whom Lady Lawson's Wynd was named); Thomas Clapperton, cloth merchant, born and educated in the county; Dr James Combe, Leith, educated in Peebles. Amongst the honorary members were —Rev. Hamilton Paul of Broughton; Rev. Mr Ritchie of Athelstaneford (brother of Mr Robert Ritchie, builder, Peebles); Rev. Mr Robertson

of Eddlestone; Captain Richard Anderson of Winterfield, R.N., proprietor of Harehope; Messrs James Tweedie, Dreva; James Wilson, Burnetland; Robert Ritchie, Peebles. "The secretary stated that the very excellent dessert of fruit exhibited this evening had been presented by a very old and much respected member, John Ker, Esq., W.S., from his garden at Kerfield, as a specimen of what Tweeddale could produce, and that Mr Ker would have been present but was most particularly engaged." It is needless to add that Mr Ker's health was pledged in a bumper, and thanks returned to him. The only original member present, besides the secretary, was Mr A. Williamson, Town-Clerk of Peebles. A few days after the meeting, the most terrible snowstorm that had raged in Scotland for a great many years began; the drifts in some places were from fifteen to twenty feet deep; roads were blocked for weeks; thousands of sheep perished; and much suffering was caused among the people.

In 1825 there were 49 guests present, Sheriff Wood again presiding, and the sensation of the evening was the arrival, at 8 o'clock, of the Right Honourable Alexander Henderson, Lord Provost of the city, whose son Thomas was admitted a member. (It was from the former that Henderson Row received its name.) Dr Wilkie, Edinburgh; Dr Dumbreck; Robert Gray, son of Rev. Mr Robert Gray of Broughton; Dr Wilkie, Innerleithen; Archibald Forrester, son of the treasurer of the

Bank of Scotland; John Leckie and William Leckie, sons of the late Rev. Mr Leckie, Peebles, were amongst those admitted. This was Mr William Leckie's first appearance at the society of which he remained so long the faithful and devoted secretary. Mr M'Ewan, of the Royal Exchange Coffee House, who had several times been taken to task for drunken waiters and general carelessness, promised faithfully not to render himself liable to censure in future.

Among the new members in 1826, when 47 were present, may be mentioned, Thomas and Alexander Allan of The Glen; James Spittal (afterwards Lord Provost), master of the Merchant Company, married to a daughter of Provost Ker of Peebles; Dr Ogilvie, late of Colquhar; and Rev. John Elliot of Peebles. "Before the meeting broke up Mr Tod begged leave to observe that his worthy and reverend friend, Mr Paul, had by his presence and poetical effusions, contributed much to the harmony of the meeting, and he would therefore propose that at the next general meeting Mr Paul be appointed poet laureate to the society." In 1827, amongst the new members are the names of Sir Henry Raeburn, William Stewart of Hawkshaw, John Govan Stewart of Hermiston; Thomas Stoddart, Cardrona Mains; Thomas Salton, Grieston, Traquair; William and James Alexander, Happrew; Alexander Renton, surgeon, Peebles; Rev. Duncan Stalker, Peebles; James M. Leckie, Dublin; Thomas and Robert Green, merchants, Edinburgh; Lord Linton; and William Stewart of Glenormiston; while in 1828

are those of Lord Elcho; John Forrester, W.S.; Alexander Forrester (afterwards minister of Linton); and Peter Anderson, W.S. The name of Mr William Chambers, bookseller, appears for the first time in 1829, with Mr Thomas Leckie, and Mr James Sloane, son of Mr Sloane, Peebles.

It was at the gathering on 30th January 1830, that Mr William Fraser intimated that on account "of the great interest John Wilson, Esq., Professor of Moral Philosophy, has on all occasions taken in everything connected with Peeblesshire, and more particularly in patronising and promoting the St Ronan's Club at Innerleithen, he would propose that he should be admitted an honorary member." It is needless to add that the suggestion was immediately and enthusiastically adopted.

At the York Hotel, Nicolson Street, the society met in 1831, when at the close (there were 45 present) a motion was made by Mr William Chambers to have an annual or occasional ball under the patronage and auspices of the society. This was agreed to, and a committee named, with Mr Chambers as convener, to carry through the arrangements. Next year, the jubilee, Mr Bartram stated that "he had held the situation of secretary since 1791, a period of 41 years; when appointed secretary the number of attending members did not exceed 12 or 15, and that it gave him not a little pleasure to see that we can now number on our roll upwards of 250; that while it gave him heartfelt satisfaction to observe the prosperous state of

the society, he could assure the committee that from the hour of his appointment to the present moment he had never ceased his feeble efforts to promote the interest, increase the numbers, and add to the respectability of the S.P.S.; but standing at the head of the roll, and oldest resident attending member of the society, he considered it time to retire from a place he had too long monopolised, and therefore begged leave to tender his resignation; and having done so, he hoped the society would excuse him for suggesting Mr Robert Marshall, a gentleman and a friend of his, every way fit to do the duties of the situation, and amply qualified to be his successor as secretary to the S.P.S." The society, however, would only consent to this so far as to appoint Mr Marshall assistant secretary.

A very long poem was transmitted to this meeting by Mr Paul, in which most of the individuals composing the society were mentioned, and it concluded thus:—

> "And last, and least, and worst of all,
> The punning poetaster Paul,
> Who says he never hopes to see
> On earth another jubilee."

Thirty-seven gentlemen assembled in 1833, and the minute closes with these words:—"The chairman (Eagle Henderson) throughout the evening discharged the duties of his situation in a manner that did credit to himself and gave the highest

satisfaction to all the members present; and the eloquence of Professor Wilson and others, when coupled with the good sense and humour of the Ettrick Shepherd, rendered this one of the most happy and intellectual meetings of the Social Peeblean Society." In 1834, Professor Wilson was vice-preses, and 57 gentlemen sat down to dinner. It was on this occasion that Mr Bartram, who still acted as secretary, said that "he had sat at the foot of the table for forty years, but from the increase of twenty members it was found necessary to lengthen the tables. In doing so, and from his difficulty in hearing the preses, he considered he could be of more use were he nearer the chair, and therefore he had given up his seat to the vice-preses. In doing so, however, he did not incline to give up his badge of office, that he had been long accustomed to see the red ribbon at the bottom of the table, and had therefore taken the liberty of ordering the jeweller to prepare a medal for the vice-preses, which he trusted the society would sanction," which of course it unanimously did. "The secretary accordingly invested the vice-preses with the badge of office, observing that although it had been the practice for the youngest member to perform this duty, yet he trusted the vice-preses would not consider it the less worthy of acceptance by its being for the first time put around the neck of Professor Wilson by the oldest member of the Social Peeblean Society." It is noted that Professor Wilson "in his happiest

poetical strain of eloquence afforded the highest intellectual feast to the most numerous meeting that ever assembled within the hall of the S.P.S."

In 1835, Professor Wilson occupied the chair, and Sir John Hay of Haystoun, Bart., M.P., was vicepreses. There were 68 gentlemen present, and "the eloquent chairman throughout the evening discharged the duties of his situation with his usual ability and in a manner that equally astonished and delighted the meeting, rendering it the happiest, as it was the most numerous, ever assembled."

The Café Royal was now fixed upon, as the rooms in the York Hotel were too small. At the meeting in 1836, William Stuart, W.S., and James Montgomery Stuart, his brother, appeared for the first time. Sir John Hay was unable to attend, but not only did he write an apology but sent a medical certificate from Dr David Maclagan, both of which are recorded in the minutes. Mr James Tod, Nether Horsburgh, and Mr Robert Tod, Wormiston; Messrs James and Thomas Lee, Upper Canada, sons of Rev. Dr Lee; the Hon. J. A. Murray, Lord Advocate; John Bathgate, writer, Peebles; Bailie Dickson, Peebles; James Lawson, Fettes Row, Edinburgh; Sir T. G. Carmichael of Skirling; the Rev. Hepburn Renton; and Robert Duncan Douglas, writer, Peebles, were among those admitted. From this day till 1842 the minutes are written and signed by Robert Marshall, though Mr Bartram still remained honorary secretary.

Rev. John Ker of Polmont was made assistant chaplain in room of Rev. Professor Brunton.

In 1840, the Right Honourable Sir James Forrest, Bart., was chairman, and John Welsh, Esq., Peebles, vice-preses; William Forrester, Esq. of Barns; Arthur Burnett, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of Peebles; Rev. William Bliss, Peebles; John Paterson, Esq., Provost of Peebles; William Blackwood, Esq., writer, Peebles, were amongst those admitted members. And this meeting is memorable for the proposal to do something for the "Schools of Peebles" by "each subscribing a small sum to enable the society to buy medals or books to be presented to the most deserving scholars. This proposal met with the approbation of all present, but particularly of Dr Lee and Mr George Thorburn, whereupon a small committee, of which Dr Lee was convener, was appointed to carry the resolution into effect."

This was the commencement of the "use and wont" practice of giving medals and Bibles to all the schools in the county.

Mr William Leckie was appointed assistant secretary in 1840.

In 1848, Robert Chambers was preses, and Eagle Henderson, vice-preses. At this meeting Rev. Mr Monilaws of Peebles was admitted a member, amongst others. In 1849, Eagle Henderson, Esq., was preses, and William Stuart, W.S., vice-preses; and though the party was small it was exceedingly pleasant. Mr Arthur Burnett, Mr William Black-

wood, Dr Junor, and Mr John Russell, of the Grammar School, formed the contingent from the burgh.

In 1850, the new members included Mr James Ritchie, stationer; Mr John Pairman; Mr Robert Chambers, jun.; and Mr James Giles of Kailzie.

In 1851, it can easily be supposed the meeting was genial and happy when Robert Chambers, senior, was chairman, and Sheriff Burnett, croupier. Rev. Mr Wyer, Peebles, and David Chambers were admitted members.

In 1852 a "Historical Committee" was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Dr Steven, Messrs Robert Chambers, William Leckie, and John Anderson. What they were to do is not defined, but they certainly did not do anything in the way of drawing up a history of the society, though they were expected to make up a list of the members *ab initio*, with every kind of information relative to the records of the society. It is to be regretted that this was not done, because Dr Steven had been long connected with it, and possessed much information about Peeblesshire families; and so did Mr Leckie, though he was later in joining the society. At this gathering Mr Thomas Gibson, who till his sudden death in 1883 took a deep interest in the society, and acted as assistant secretary for many years, was admitted a member, along with Mr Spence, surgeon-dentist, who resided during summer in Woodbine Cottage, Peebles; Mr Archibald Paterson, Meadowfield, son of Mr Paterson of Milkieston; Rev. Mr Blake, Stobo; and Rev. Mr Mackenzie, Lyne. Here also ap-

pears for the first time the notice of the toast of the evening — the "Social Peeblean Society, success to it; health, happiness, and prosperity to all its members." The Rev. Dr Steven's (the chairman) speech is summarised in the minute, though the summary is prefaced by the remark that "it is impossible to report it in a manner equal to its merits"—while it is added that "it would be difficult to record the 'flow of eloquence' and the witty sayings which crowded upon each other as they fell from the vice-chairman" (Mr Stuart). "The roars of mirth will not be soon forgotten. . . Sheriff Burnett spoke in the same felicitous strain, and referred to the School Committee, who, forgetful of their duties, had run away to the Great Exhibition, and left him alone and unassisted to discharge the onerous duty of presenting the silver medal. Altogether the evening was spent in a most agreeable manner."

In 1853 the new members were Sir G. Graham Montgomery, Bart.; Samuel Hay, Esq.; Mr Robert Lee (afterwards Lord Lee), son of Principal Lee; and Mr William Clapperton.

In 1855 the society met in the Tontine Hotel, Peebles—as had been done in 1817. Mr William Chambers of Glenormiston, chairman; William Stuart, Esq., W.S. (Provost of Peebles), croupier. Among those present were Sheriff Burnett, Bailie John Stirling, Walter Thorburn, Bailie Junor, William Forrester of Barns, John Bathgate—in all 24.

No summer meeting of the society has since been held in Peebles.

1858-1894.

A new minute book opens this year, and the handwriting is that of Mr Thomas Gibson. Among those present at the 76th anniversary was Dr William Graham, teacher of elocution—who possessed a cottage at Innerleithen, beautifully situated in close proximity to the "Well," and who became a very frequent attender at the annual gatherings of the society, where he charmed the guests with his fine rendering of Jacobite and other songs. Mr Thomas Gibson was appointed assistant secretary in room of Mr Archibald Marshall—son of the minister of Manor, who was one of the founders of the society. In 1859, the annual subscription was fixed at 5s per annum, payable on the 1st of June. Provost Stirling occupied the chair, and Dr Graham was croupier. In 1860, the Very Rev. Principal Lee died. As has been mentioned, he had been chaplain to the society since 1810, and during very many years he seldom missed an opportunity of being present, though of course his advancing years and delicate health latterly prevented his attendance. He rode to Edinburgh from Peebles as long as he was minister of the parish, journeyed from St Andrews when he filled the office of Professor of Moral Philosophy, and when he resided in Edinburgh he made a point, when possible, of appearing at the annual dinner. He never lost his

interest in and his affection for Peebles, where his ministry had been very happy. "It was unanimously resolved to record the deep regret which is occasioned by the death of one so universally esteemed, and who had been so long an ornament to the society." The same year it was agreed to open a special subscription for the establishment of a bursary, as "an additional encouragement to the education of the county," and a circular was issued, signed by Dr Graham as chairman and Mr Leckie as secretary.

In January 1861, Provost Stirling was again chairman, with Mr James Marshall as croupier. Among the new members admitted were Rev. Robert Angus, Peebles; Rev. Jardine Wallace, Traquair; Rev. Alex. Williamson, Innerleithen; and Mr Jobson Dickson, C.A. The same year, Mr James Stirling, who was afterwards Mr Gibson's successor in the secretaryship, was admitted a member. Mr (now Sir Charles) Tennant was in the chair in December 1861 (to which month the meeting had been changed as more convenient than January); and it was agreed to institute a class of life members, with the view of raising a capital sum for a bursary fund. The sum was fixed at £3, 3s. The bursary was founded in 1862. Mr Alexander Tod of St Mary's Mount was elected a member of committee, which office he held till his death. Dr Stevenson Macadam, who resided during the summer at Innerleithen, was admitted a member, along with Messrs Walter and John Richard.

At the general meeting in December 1864, it was proposed by Mr Tod, in view of a suggested alteration in the name of the society, that it should continue as formerly — "The Social Peeblean Society," which motion was seconded by Mr Stuart, W.S. Mr James Marshall moved that it was inexpedient to revert to the old name, more especially as the present name—"Peeblesshire Society"—was adopted in 1862, only after notice of the proposed change was duly given to all the members. The amendment was carried by a majority of four, several members declining to vote. The number present was thirty-five. Professor Veitch's name appears for the first time on this occasion, though he was admitted in January 1860.

In 1865, Mr Samuel Hay was chairman and Mr Alexander Tod croupier; Rev. Alex. Williamson, of Innerleithen, now of West St Giles', was elected chaplain.

Professor Veitch was chairman in 1866, and Mr Walter Richard vice-chairman. There were twenty-one present, and this appears to have been the earliest occasion in which a report of the proceedings appeared fully in the newspapers—that from the *Edinburgh Courant* being inserted in the minute book. It gives at length Professor Veitch's speech in proposing the toast of the evening. In it he said:—"I think it is a great privilege for any one to have been born or to have lived much of his early life in Peeblesshire. Our county affords means of education by its natural scenery, its local history

and traditions, its floating poetry, which are not surpassed by any county in Scotland." A deputation from the Inverness Club — which met in another room of the Café Royal—consisting of Mr Carmichael and Mr Alexander Nicholson (afterwards Sheriff Nicholson), accompanied by the piper, entered to offer their congratulations; and the compliment was acknowledged by Professor Veitch, Mr Leckie, and Dr Graham, who returned with the above-named gentlemen, and Dr Graham sang the "Camp at Ardoch" to the air of "Gloomy Winter."

It was resolved at the meeting that the bursary henceforth should be open to any one who is a native of Peeblesshire, or has been educated at a school or schools within the county.

Professor Calderwood was elected a member at the meeting on 11th December 1868, along with Sheriff Hunter of Peebles, Sir William Fergusson, Bart., of Spittalhaugh; Mr Anderson of Tushielaw. Mr Tennant of The Glen, who presided, announced his intention of giving a bursary of £10 a year for ten years—thus making two bursaries at the disposal of the society.

Professor Veitch again presided at the annual dinner in 1869, held on this occasion in the Rainbow Hotel, which has since disappeared. It was on the North Bridge, where the large railway hotel is about to be built. The Earl of Wemyss and Lord Elibank, along with Mr Robert Cox, jun., were admitted as members. Mr Tod of St Mary's Mount intimated his intention to give a bursary of

£10 a year. Thus the society had three bursaries in its gift. The chairman in the course of his speech said "the feelings which animated the gentlemen who formed the society in 1782 were no doubt those of a local brotherhood, feelings of strong desire for early associations. Although eighty-eight years had passed away, there had only been a change in the body of the society; the soul and the spirit of it was the same."

At a meeting in January 1872 (the December meeting having been postponed on account of the alarming illness of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales), Mr Tennant intimated by letter his wish to give another bursary of £10 on the same conditions as his former one. In all, four bursaries were in the hands of the society. Mr Tennant's were afterwards united to form one bursary of £15 for a term of eight years. In 1875, Mr Maitland Burnett (grandson of the late Captain Burnett of Barns), Dr Connell, Peebles; Rev. Professor Lee, D.D., Glasgow University (son of the late Principal Lee), were amongst the new members. Sheriff Lee (afterwards Lord Lee) presided, and 33 gentlemen were present.

In 1876, Mr W. Duncan, W.S., of Caerlee, Innerleithen, was chairman, and gave an interesting account of the origin and progress of the society.

In 1879, Professor Veitch, the preses, remarked in the course of his speech that "the first meeting of the society took place on the 20th December 1782, in the reign of George III., three days before

the Independence of the United States of America had been provisionally acknowledged by Great Britain. North, Fox, Pitt, were then our leading statesmen. In India we were fighting Tippoo Saib; and, in Edinburgh, a boy of eleven years of age, with deep blue eyes, and a high brow, was passing daily with his satchel of books on his back from George Square to the High School; not the best scholar, but the best storyteller of the school. That boy was Walter Scott."

From 1882 the meetings have been regularly held in the Windsor Hotel, Princes Street. On the 8th December 1882 the centenary celebration was held. It was intended that there should be a large gathering, and that as many as possible from Peebles should attend. But the weather interfered with the arrangements and blighted the hopes of the committee. In the supplementary report on the occasion, a brief history of the society is given, and it is extremely interesting, as shewing the vitality of the club and the prosperity of its revenue. Mr Charles Tennant of The Glen presided, and 36 members sat down to dinner. There would have been many more, but the contingent from Peebles was prevented by an almost unprecedented snowstorm, which completely blocked the railway lines. Mr Dudley Stuart (son of the late Mr William Stuart, W.S., Peebles), Mr Edward Tennant, yr., of The Glen; Mr W. T. Duncan, 13 Abercromby Place, were amongst those admitted as members at this meeting.

On 12th December 1884 an entry in the minutes records the severe loss the society had sustained by the sudden death of Mr Thomas Gibson, junior secretary, who had for a period of twenty-six years discharged the duties of that office along with Mr Leckie. "Under their joint management the society had added greatly to its numbers and extended its usefulness, while its funds had been judiciously expended in promoting emulation in the schools, and fostering native merit in the University. Much of the correspondence in connection with these matters, as well as the general business of the society, was conducted by Mr Gibson with singular earnestness and punctuality; and in the minute book he has left a full record of the society's proceedings, which must be interesting to the future members. In his death the members of the society have lost a brother who was endeared to them by his local sympathies and honoured by them for his gentleness, probity, and unassuming manners." Mr James Stirling, son of Provost Stirling of Peebles, was elected unanimously in his room. Professor Veitch was chairman, and the Rev. Alexander Williamson of West St Giles', Edinburgh, croupier; and the chairman in his speech alluded in touching language to Mr Gibson's death. Professor Calderwood occupied the chair on 11th December 1885, and Councillor Clapperton was croupier. Mr J. R. Cosens, advocate, son of the Rev. Mr Cosens of Broughton, and Mr George Munro, Leith, grandson of the late Dr Williamson, Peebles, were admitted members.

The chairman said that "as a society they not only kept up their interest in the county, recognising its beauty and attraction, but they had a sphere of usefulness. They had strong recollections of how they used to look up to the society as a kindly upper house when they sent down prizes to them in the schools, and now they themselves kept up their visits, not only on account of the beauties of the county, but because of the educational arrangements." From this meeting Mr Leckie was absent for the first time for many years, on account of indisposition, and his health was proposed by Professor Veitch. Mr Leckie had been a member for sixty-one years, a member of committee for forty-eight years, and secretary for forty-three years. He proposed he should now be nominated honorary secretary. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

In 1886, when Sir G. Graham Montgomery was president, among others admitted as new members were Sir John Adam Hay, Sheriff Crichton, Dr Andrew, Mr Henry Hardy (connected with the Forresters of West Linton, the Watsons of Covington, and grandson of Dr Hardy, Professor of Divinity in Edinburgh University), Mr Robert Seton Marshall, grandson of the Rev. Mr Marshall of Manor. In the course of his speech Sir Graham mentioned that the first time he visited Innerleithen was when he was a very little boy. Some games were going on, and the hero of the day was the Ettrick Shepherd.

In 1887, the Rev. Alex. Williamson, the chaplain,

was chairman, and Mr James Crichton, jeweller, croupier. Amongst those admitted as members were J. Turnbull Smith, C.A., manager of the Life Association of Scotland; and Dr Willins, Penicuik (son of the late Mr John Willins, of the Burgh School, Peebles). The chairman referred to the founders of the society, among whom were his father and the father of Mr Archibald Marshall, then present. He drew a picture of Edinburgh and Peebles at the time when the society was originated; sketched its history during several years, and spoke of some of its more prominent members. This was the last occasion on which Mr Alexander Tod of St Mary's Mount was at these gatherings, for his death took place in the course of the year; it was the first at which the new Peeblesshire Union was represented in the person of its secretary, Mr Andrew Brown, now solicitor in Peebles.

In 1888 the record of deaths included Professor Dickson of Hartree, Mr Alexander Tod, Mr Robert Chambers (son of the late Robert Chambers, author of *Traditions of Edinburgh*, &c.), Mr W. Johnston, Birkenhead. Mr Tod had been a member for twenty-eight years, and was on the committee for twenty years. He had resided in Peebles for thirty years, and had always taken a deep interest in whatever concerned the welfare of the inhabitants. He had been most liberal and impartial in his charities and subscriptions.

On 6th December 1889 the following tribute was paid in the minutes to the memory of Mr William

Leckie:—"The society has this year to mourn the loss of its oldest member, Mr William Leckie. He joined the society in 1825, and for no less than forty-two years after 1842 discharged the duties of secretary. Like everything else which Mr Leckie undertook, he did his work in that respect most thoroughly; and it is mainly to his exertions that the funds and membership of the society are in such a flourishing condition. . . . At our annual gatherings his bright face and cheery manners diffused happiness around him; and by none will his death be more regretted than by members of this society, who warmly reciprocated the love he bore to it." The Rev. A. T. Cosens of Broughton, Mr P. H. Cosens, W.S. (his son); Mr George Harrison, Mr William Brunton, Mr Andrew Brown, Mr T. Geddes, Bank Street, were amongst those added to the list of members. Mr Walter Thorburn, M.P., was chairman, and Mr Dudley Stuart, advocate, vice-chairman. Mr Thorburn spoke of Peebles as he remembered it as a boy, when "outside stairs and thatched roofs were still common even in the High Street," and he contrasted it with its present condition.

In 1890 Mr George Miller-Cunninghame of Leithen, C.E., Mr Charles Scott, advocate, and Mr E. B. Swinton, 48 Moray Place, were elected members; Mr Cunningham presided, Mr Archibald Hewat being vice-president. The record of deaths for the past year included Lord Lee, Mr Wolfe Murray of Cringletie, Mr Archibald Marshall —a member for half a century and an office-bearer

for forty years—Mr William Rutherford, and Mr John Stirling, who had been long Provost of Peebles.

In 1891 the annual dinner was postponed on account of the prevalence of influenza, which had seized the chairman and many of those who had signified their intention of being present. The committee instructed the secretary to send letters of condolence and sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales on the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. Mr James Stirling desired that he might be relieved of the duties of secretary, and Mr P. H. Cosens, W.S., was appointed joint-secretary, Mr Stirling retaining the office of treasurer.

Mr Edward Tennant presided in 1892, and mention is made in the report of the deaths of Mr William Christie, Councillor Crichton (both members of committee), Sheriff Crichton, Mr Forbes of Medwyn, the Rev. T. R. Wyer, Peebles; Mr James Jobson Dickson, C.A.; Sir W. H. Gibson Carmichael of Skirling, Bart.; Mr William Blackwood, solicitor, Peebles; and Mr Charles Scott, Clerk of Justiciary. The new members were the Very Rev. Principal Caird, The University, Glasgow; Admiral Erskine of Venlaw, Mr Alexander Blair, Sheriff of Lothians and Peebles; Mr J. Lawson Walton, barrister, Q.C., M.P. for Leeds; Mr Stephen Brown of Glencotho; Dr J. Rogerson, Merchiston Castle; Rev. T. Hume Tod (nephew of the late Mr Alexander Tod, and formerly minister

of Drummelzier), Rev. J. B. Armstrong, Skirling; Rev. W. P. Paterson, Crieff (now Professor in Aberdeen University); Mr George Cunningham, advocate; Mr William Ford, 17 Grosvenor Crescent; Mr A. G. Muir, W.S.; Mr M. Russell Wyer, Enfield; Mr J. Ramsay Smith, solicitor, Peebles; and Mr J. Addison Smith. Professor Veitch replied for the "Poets of the Border"—proposed by Mr J. R. Cosens—and in eloquent words spoke of Sir Walter Scott, James Hogg, and John Leyden.

The meeting of 1893 was the last at which Professor Veitch was present. Mr Colin Mackenzie of Portmore was chairman, and Mr Dudley Stuart, advocate, croupier. Professor Veitch proposed "The Town and Trade of Peebles." He said the "town of Peebles was remarkable for beauty of natural situation, and it was also remarkable for an ancient record which touched on many points—the most salient and picturesque points—of Scottish story."

In 1894, Admiral Erskine of Venlaw presided, and Mr George Harrison, of Edinburgh, son of the late Lord Provost Harrison, and tenant of Rosetta, was vice-chairman. The Chairman paid a touching tribute to the late Professor Veitch, who "had gone from amongst them, and who slept beneath the shadow of the ruins of St Andrew's Church, amongst his fellows in the churchyard of his native town of Peebles; but 'he being dead yet speaketh,' and in their imagination his spirit still lingered among the grand old hills, the heathery knowes, the purling

streams of Tweeddale and the Border land he loved so well; and until the day when 'the hills shall depart and the mountains shall be removed,' the memory of John Veitch would be held dear to future generations and green as his native valleys." Professor Calderwood also referred in eloquent terms to his old friend as a philosopher and a poet. He beautifully alluded to the favourite haunts of the Professor on Cademuir, by Lyne and Manor waters, Hundleshope, and Glenrath. "Treading these slopes and pastoral heights he found ceaseless pleasure, and he spread his gladness of heart among all lovers of Peeblesshire and the Border counties." Rev. Mr Williamson, in replying for "The Clergy," spoke of his intimate connection with Professor Veitch in the days of youth, and the walks they had together in olden times. He thought "some memorial of John Veitch should be placed in a conspicuous quarter of the town he loved, and he was sure that to it every one in the county would be glad to subscribe." Subsequently the matter took shape by the appointment of a committee to carry out the suggestion.

It may be mentioned that the February succeeding —that of 1895—was one of the most severe that had been experienced in this country for many years. The cold was intense; it extended from Eastern Europe to Western America, and was felt even in the Riviera and other health resorts. In the end of January the roads, especially in the north and south-west of Scotland, were blocked by deep snow

wreaths for many days, and the railway traffic in Ross-shire and other contiguous counties was deranged. On the 11th of February the Tweed was frozen over at Peebles even in its most rapid streams; the Eddlestone and other waters were in the same state. In Edinburgh for a considerable period the frost was so intense that in almost every house the pipes were frozen; a water famine was threatened, temporary wells were erected to supply householders with water, and much inconvenience and distress were felt. As instances of the extreme cold it may be mentioned that at Braemar on the 10th of February the reading of the thermometer at 9 A.M. showed 49 degrees of frost, or 17 below zero, and in Alford Vale 53 degrees of frost, or no less than 21 degrees below zero!

THE PEEBLESSHIRE UNION

is a young Edinburgh society, but vigorous and flourishing. It was established in 1887, and took the place of a similar association which died a number of years ago. It is intended to be of a "more homely character" than the venerable "Peeblesshire Society." Its meetings during the winter are frequent, and the programmes consist of lectures, concerts, soirees, and an annual summer trip to some part of the

beautiful county to which all its members belong. The first office-bearers were the honorary president, Professor Calderwood; the president, Mr Thomas Dobson; the vice-presidents, Messrs Gibson and Robert Young; the secretary, Mr Andrew Brown. At the inaugural meeting, which took the form of a combined soiree and concert, Professor Calderwood occupied the chair, and in the course of his opening speech said that "when the Union was spoken of as a new association he thought it was to rival the 'Peeblesshire Society,' but into that society women had never been admitted, and that in itself went far to indicate that the new association was the right thing." Ex-Bailie Lewis was president for a year or two; then Dr Carruthers, and now Mr Robert Young holds the office. The membership is very large, and the meetings are most attractive. The usefulness of the society in binding together the number of residents in Edinburgh, both old and young, cannot be over-estimated, while the help it affords to those who unfortunately require aid is most valuable. The papers read are generally such as to give information about the antiquities of Peeblesshire, to inspire a love for its hills and streams, and to preserve some of the stories of other days which are apt to be forgotten. The Union deserves all encouragement, and its energetic office-bearers have shown already that they have at heart its prosperity and the good of those who are connected with it.

THE TWEEDDALE SHOOTING CLUB

was instituted in 1790—the year after the commencement of the French Revolution. Dr Dalgleish was minister of the parish; Mr William Little was Town-Clerk. The Cross Kirk had been vacated, and the new church at the head of the High Street had been occupied for seven years. The Virgin Chapel had but recently been removed, along with the ancient Tolbooth. The Tontine was not then, or for many years afterwards, in existence. The site was occupied by a few thatched cottages. The Cross Keys, or the "Yett," was presided over by Miss Ritchie, who has been already often referred to. Tweed Bridge—dating back, at any rate, to the 14th century—had not been widened, and was still as narrow as its neighbour across the "Peebles Water," or Cuddy. The slated houses in the burgh were not numerous; the "outshots" and outside stairs were frequent. The Town Hall had been erected seventeen years before, and the county and other balls were held there instead of in the old edifice in the Northgate. The "Gytes" meeting-house was not built, nor had that of Mr Stalker been called into existence. The old Cross still faced the Northgate; and shops, if sufficiently abundant for the wants of the people, were unostentatious and humble apartments. Mr William Grieve was M.P. for the burghs in which Peebles was included, and Lieutenant William Montgomery was M.P. for the county.

The origin of the club dates from a shooting party on Glendean Banks, at the head of the Quair; and Lady Nasmyth suggested an annual ball in addition to the annual dinner, at which ladies could not be present. The founders were:—Right Honourable Lord Elibank, preses; Sir James Nasmyth of Posso, Bart.; Sir George Montgomery of Macbiehill, Bart.; Walter Williamson of Cardrona, Esq.; Robert Brown of Newhall, Esq.; Æneas Mackay of Scotstoun, Esq.; Captain R. N. Campbell of Hallyards, William Montgomery, Esq., younger of Stanhope; and James Wolfe Murray, Esq., advocate, Sheriff of the county. The uneventful history of the club (which continues its meetings every year in Peebles) has been written by the late Professor Veitch, who had the minutes placed at his disposal. But as very few readers may have access to the small volume, the following facts may be mentioned. Coursing was for a short time patronised by the club, and the first competition took place in November 1804, at the eleventh milestone on the Kingside Edge; the dinner to be at Noblehouse in the evening. In 1832 the coursing part of the proceedings was dropped. The ball, however, was not given up for many years. It is said that the Duchess of Buccleuch once travelled across Minchmoor in a pony trap to one of these gay gatherings. One of the first points discussed was the uniform to be worn by the members of the club. It was agreed that it must be "a coat of grass-green colour, with a dark green velvet cape, and a silver button

with the letter T engraved on it, a white vest, and black sattin *(sic)* breeches," in which dress they were to appear at the balls. A fine of two bottles of claret was to be imposed on any member "coming to, and dining at, any of the regular clubs without his uniform coat," and one "Scots pint of claret" for the same offence at a ball. (In 1813, Mr Wedderburn, the Sheriff, paid a guinea for having transgressed this law.) In 1792 an alteration was made on the uniform so far that "the coat should be lapell'd *(sic)* with a button having a pointer dog and the letters T.S.C. engraved thereon, and that the button should be of silver." In 1806, the matter again engaged serious attention, and it was resolved that "the uniform coat of the club in future shall be a dark (not a bottle) green, instead of grass-green colour, and that the *whole* buttons on the coat shall be silver, with a pointer dog and the letters T.S.C. engraved thereon; and a dark green velvet collar." The rule seems to have fallen into desuetude, for, in order to revive the traditions of the club, it was agreed to return to the uniform of "a green dress coat with a velvet collar and the club silver buttons, and a white waistcoat with the club buttons as heretofore, and shoes with silver buckles." In its early days the festive board was spread in Miss Ritchie's inn, when dinner was to be on the table at four o'clock—a late hour in those days; next it was transferred to the Tontine, where it has ever since remained. The rate was at first two shillings a head! The bill was to be called for at seven p.m.;

and no one can doubt that Miss Ritchie would send it in punctually at the moment desired. "Six dozens of port and claret glasses and four decanters, with the letter T engraved upon them, from the Leith glass-house, and a handsome book for the minutes of the club," were to be ordered by Mr Wolfe Murray and Mr Montgomery in 1790. These glasses were to be reserved for the use of the club exclusively. It was further resolved, in regard to the uniform mentioned above, that "if Peebles cloath can be obtained which they can with propriety wear as their uniform, they are all to use it; and they recommend it to their secretary to inform Mr Dickson and every other Peebles manufacturer of this resolution." Mr James Dickson possessed the "Waulk Mill" on Cuddyside. (His son was one of the founders of the Gutterbluid Society in 1823, and died at Stow 19th November 1839.) Mr James exhibited to the admiring gaze of the members "several webs of grass-green cloth, which met their full approbation, and the whole was purchased by those present." Professor Veitch thinks it possible that as Sir Walter Scott had Miss Ritchie in view in pourtraying the character of "Meg Dods" of the Cleekum Inn, he had also the Tweeddale Shooting Club in his eye when he describes the Killnakelty Hunt, which patronised that worthy person, before the "Hottle" was established. The first landlord of the Tontine — and this intensified Miss Ritchie's contempt for the whole affair — was a French Belgian, Benoit Lenoir; and he had the honour

of ministering to the comfort of the club and its guests in 1808. A cellar was specially provided for its use, and well stocked with claret and port, to which came to be added, as civilisation made progress, "Madeira" and "white Champagne wine." The two shillings a head in 1790 has now been increased to an entry money of £2, 2s.

In 1822, Mr Paterson of Birthwood presented the club with a "very handsome ram's-horn snuff mull, mounted with silver," on which a suitable inscription was placed. The secretary kept the key of the cellar, and nothing could be got from the precious binns until he arrived on the scene or sent forward the key. On one occasion—18th September 1841—when Mr James Wolfe Murray was chairman, Mr Stewart of Glenormiston croupier, and the other members were Sir Adam Hay, Mr Samuel Hay, and Mr Arthur Burnett, it was discovered that the secretary was not forthcoming, and that he had entrusted the valuable key to no substitute! What was to be done? No sherry was to be found in the house. Champagne was procured instead, and perhaps was not of the best. Mr Cameron's claret —better than none—was laid under contribution, and the spirits of the little group were rising, when the errant official—Mr James Hay Mackenzie, W.S. — issued from amongst the passengers by the Peebles coach! He was, of course, received with every demonstration of delight, and soon caused his dereliction of duty to be forgotten in the

"liberal supply of club claret" he called from the "vasty deep" of the catacombs!

The minutes are only simple records of the club meetings, and do not in any way touch on local events, or preserve notices even of the individual members. Still, the brief references to this and other societies existing in Peebles give us some idea of the times, and the social—convivial, if we choose to call them so—gatherings which annually occurred in the burgh town. It may be that for a brief space political feeling ran so high as to imperil the existence of the club, but party differences were soon buried in oblivion, and the reunions became once more united and happy. "It is a pleasant feature of our times that whatever may be the views of men on public questions, these seldom destroy private friendship. However strongly we may denounce an opponent and the policy he pursues, we never object to meet him amid the amenities of social intercourse. Indeed, such stated gatherings tend to modify, if not to obliterate, the sharp lines of demarcation which otherwise exist, and to cause individuals, however true they remain to their convictions, to respect each other in private life."

THE GUTTERBLUID CLUB.

The original name of the society was the "Peeblean Club," and at the first meeting it

was resolved that none should be invited to join but "those born in Peebles, or true 'Guttar Blood.'" The former designation has been dropped, and the latter retained. The club was instituted on 31st January 1823, and those present in "the house of William Robertson, Old Town," on that memorable evening, were Francis Neilson, manufacturer; James Spalding, nurseryman; Alexander Brunton, teacher; William Thomson, messenger; Lieut. Arthur Veitch; John Brown, stockingmaker; Alexander Dickson, carter; James Keddie, merchant; John Dickson, dyer; James Ker, smith; William Robertson, innkeeper; William Turnbull, baker; James Turnbull, wright; James Ker, barber; George Dickson, shoemaker; Alexander Scott, tailor. Mr Neilson was elected president, and Mr Brunton clerk. The descendants of a few of the founders of the society still remain, but of the great majority no representatives exist in the town. The society itself still continues to hold its annual meeting, and its ranks are recruited from the sons of those who were at one time "incomers."

The early gatherings were convened in William Robertson's, "he being the only publican born in Peebles." In 1837 a change took place, when Mr William Sanderson's (Mason Lodge) was appointed the rendezvous where the "annual festival," as it was styled, was celebrated. In the following year it was held in the "house of Gideon Wallace, Old Town," whence it was, in 1839, transferred to that

of Mr Hotson, Old Town; and in 1840 the members once more returned to Mr William Robertson, one of the founders of the G. B. Club, where the supper ordered consisted of "threepenny pies," to be provided by Mr James Dickson. In 1845, Mrs Durward's Inn, High Street, was fixed upon, where the price of supper was to be "one shilling each, and drink at pleasure." In 1847, the Commercial Hotel (Mr Wallace's) was selected; in 1849, the Cross Keys; in 1850, the Crown Inn; in 1851, the Commercial Inn; in 1852, the Mason Lodge; in 1853, the Tontine; in 1854, the Cross Keys; and very frequently thereafter the Crown Inn.

When Mr Alexander Brunton died in 1833, after having been clerk to the society for ten years, Mr William Thomson, messenger, one of the original members, was appointed in his stead. His salary was doubtless the same as that of his predecessor, viz., five shillings per annum, to cover the ordinary expenses which required to be met. Mr Thomson continued to discharge the duties of his office till 1847, when Mr Archibald Donaldson, junior, was chosen to succeed him. He acted for twenty-two years, and resigned in 1869, when Mr Andrew Green undertook to act as secretary and treasurer; and on his departure for America about ten years ago, Mr Charles Ker, the present secretary, was elected. It may be mentioned that the minute books have from the commencement been kept in a most admirable manner, and every event of the slightest interest which took place in the burgh

or county has been duly chronicled. Indeed, it may be said that if it were not for the assiduity of successive clerks or secretaries, many occurrences which are noted would now be entirely forgotten. Fires, floods, and thunderstorms occupy a conspicuous share of the attention of the scribes. For example, we find the following:—"3rd March, 1826.—This morning, at half-past four o'clock, an alarming fire broke out in the workshop of Adam Scott, cabinetmaker. It having attained to such a height and fury before discovered, that before 6 o'clock the whole house was burned, with all the stock of wood, materials, working tools, &c." "9th June, 1833.—The property at the head of Dean's Wynd, on the north side of the High Street, belonging to Mr Alexander Fletcher, farmer, East Loch, Eddlestone, possessed by Mr Alexander Bathgate, teacher of the English School, was discovered to be on fire about half-past twelve on Sunday morning, and before 4 o'clock the whole premises in front and back house were burned to the ground. But, fortunately, Mr Bathgate had removed a good part of his furniture from the premises, as he was removing to another house at the West Port, which he had purchased from Mr James Robertson, son of the late John Robertson, Esq., Sheriff-Clerk and Commissary of Peeblesshire." As on the previous occasion, the fire engine and the exertion of the inhabitants prevented much damage to the adjoining houses. In December the same year, the house of John Mitchell, labourer and gravedigger, Northgate

(east side), was burned, and he "being badly" was carried out to Mrs Girdwood's. On 9th January 1836 the offices at Wester Dalwick were destroyed by fire, eleven milk cows and five horses being burned to death. On 17th May 1838 the house of Robert Brown, weaver, Old Town, consisting of two stories, and "sclated," was consumed, with all the furniture belonging to the proprietor and to "four poor tenants." On Sabbath, 4th August 1844, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, "an alarming fire broke out in the house lately the property of the deceased Mr Robert Elphinstone, merchant," and much damage was done to the furniture. On 4th December, 1844, also a Sunday, when "all the churches were in," Mr John Shillinglaw's bake-house was burned. "The church got a very quick scaling." The town's mills were burned on 9th October 1854. A slight fire occurred in Mr Pairman's shop, High Street, on 14th April 1868, and that afternoon great alarm was caused by a conflagration at Horsburgh Castle farm steading; while, in 1869 (December 13), thirty-two stacks were consumed at Eshiels.

The chief floods mentioned are on 25th December 1824, when the Tweed rose some inches higher than during the inundation of 5th December 1811; in August 1829; in June 1836, after a thunderstorm which began at 4 A.M. and lasted till 11 P.M.; on 15th September 1839, "being Sabbath day," the Tweed rose to a great height, and the Soonhope burn "swelled up along the turnpike road to near

the White Stone Knowe; and much grain was floated away by the conjunction of these two streams in Mr Alexander Girdwood's park on the south side of the Kerfield road; the bridge across the Leithen, a mile or so above the manse, was carried away, while Mr Boyd's and Mrs Roughead's houses in Innerleithen, and the factories, "were very sore damaged;" also the Knowe Bridge over the Quair, as well as that over Newhall Burn, and that at Orchardmains, were either completely destroyed, or so impaired as to be rendered impassable. On December 2d and 12th 1861, "great floods on the Tweed." On 4th February 1863, after a remarkable thunderstorm of great severity and a perfect hurricane of wind, along with rain, the river rose to a considerable height. On February 28th 1870, the Tweed was again very large on account of the melting of the snow. On 5th March 1881, after a snowstorm by which the railways and public roads were blocked for about a week, the Tweed reached a height "unprecedented in the memory of living Peebleans." A similar block is recorded on 9th December 1882.

The winter of 1827 was famous for a snowstorm, "one of the heaviest ever known," which began on 4th March, and "no sermon took place in the Parish Church, an occurrence never before remembered." Fastren's E'en Fair was postponed for a fortnight, the roads being impassable. On 9th April 1830 a "tremendous thunderstorm" broke over the town, and Mr Stalker's house was struck by lightning.

On 4th January 1839 there was "a great fall of snow," and at twelve o'clock on Sunday night (the 6th) a gale began which uprooted a large number of trees "at Neidpath, Kailzie, Traquair, Pirn, and the town's plantations. At Rachan 200 large trees were blown down, and a part of the roof of Neidpath Castle was carried along to the gate," while the old mansion-house of Polmood was destroyed by the violence of the hurricane. New Year's Day 1855 was ushered in by a storm of wind, which blew out "one half of the panes of glass newly put into the roof of the railway station," and overturned chimney cans, &c. There are later gales recorded, but these are the most eventful; and on 16th February 1855 was the severest frost for the last forty years.

The following entry occurs on April 25, 1838:— "There are millions of human beings who have entered this world, lived to a good old age, and left it without ever once seeing the planet Mercury. The object of this article is therefore to afford an opportunity to those who 'care for none of these things' that on Wednesday evening, 25th April, at half-past nine o'clock, the moon will approach the planet and obscure it for thirty-one minutes. The immersion will take place at eighty-five degrees from the vertix of the moon, and the immersion will be at eight degrees from the vertex, or the first near the equator of the moon and the last near the North Pole."

Among the deaths of "Gutterbluids" recorded are

the following, some of whose names may yet be remembered:—Mr James Keddie, merchant, April 29, 1825; William Keddie, June 27, 1827; William Henderson, teacher, 23d April 1829; Alex. Brunton, clerk to the club, 18th March 1833; Alexander Grieve, weaver, and William Sanderson, late weaver and innkeeper, in August 1838; James Marshall, carrier, 25th November 1838; William Turnbull, builder, and James Forsyth, shoemaker, January 1839; William Muirhead, shoemaker, July 23, 1839; Gideon Wallace, November 1842; James Spalding, nurseryman, December 16, 1843; William Turnbull, painter, July 12, 1844; John Mathison, late writer, 14th September, 1845 (began as an apprentice in the office of Mr Williamson, town-clerk); William Whitie, shoemaker, Eastgate, 21st August 1846; James Dickson, baker, October 1847; William Thomson (for sixteen years secretary to the club), August 1, 1851; Robert Henderson, drummer, October 3, 1852; William Turnbull, painter, October 16, 1853; Agnes Bookless (commonly called "Nanny Buglas"), January 17, 1854; James Ritchie, fisher ("best burn fisher in Peebles"), 24th September, 1854; John Bell, burgh officer, and Thomas Muirhead, both died in October; William Marshall on 30th November, and Alexander Bathgate, Burgh School master, before the close of 1855; John Hislop, watchmaker, Alexander Thomson, cooper, Francis Neilson, Christopher Young, all died in 1856; Thomas Gentles, nurseryman, and Thomas Renwick, weaver, died in 1857; Thomas Scott, tailor,

in December 1858; Robert Ritchie, builder, 4th April, 1860; Alexander Tait, teacher, poet laureate to the club, died on Monday, 5th August, 1861; William Baptie, baker, and William Spalding died in 1862; James Turnbull, painter, June 1866; John Paterson ("Jock Lookup"), James Muirhead, Alex. Girdwood, 1867; Archibald Donaldson, sen., and William Turnbull, 1868; Robert Stoddart, organist in the Episcopal Church for forty years, in April, and Dawson Brown, in June 1869; ex-Bailie Dickson, long a prominent figure in Peebles, James Whitie, shoemaker, Eastgate, Alexander Cleghorn, aged 90, Thomas Walker, accountant, David Potts, in 1870; Thomas Spalding, aged 74, 1871; James Hall, aged 83, John Robertson, mason, Jean Moffat, aged 84, 1873; John Ballantyne, cabinetmaker, 1875; Thomas Walker, shoemaker, aged 73, 1876; "Cooper Robertson," son of William Robertson, Old Town, 1877; John Elder, a well-known and highly respected Peeblean, in Canada, 18th May, 1879, aged 84; James Ker, clothier, April 7, and Andrew Mathison, gardener, aged 92, 1880; David Henderson, elder in the Relief Church, 1881.

Some of those mentioned in the long list given above cannot fail to be remembered by all who knew Peebles during the last fifty or sixty years. Not a few were outstanding characters in their day —having peculiarities or idiosyncracies which distinguished them.

The club has had for a great many years a poet laureate. The first was Alexander Tait, teacher—

"Poet Tait" as he was usually called. His annual verses were always hailed with enthusiasm at the meetings, and on his death James Grosart was unanimously elected to the vacant post. A volume of his poems was published in 1884 by Mr Smail, Innerleithen, and they abound in allusions to local personages and local events.

It is to be hoped that the club, which seems strong and vigorous, continually recruiting its membership, will continue to flourish, to imbue the natives of the royal burgh with affection for the scenes amidst which they have been nurtured, to recall to them many of their predecessors who have passed away, and to encourage them, when they feel constrained to seek occupation in other parts of the country, to maintain their connection with the place of their birth. It is also to be earnestly desired that the secretaries in the future may be as minute and indefatigable in chronicling details as those who have occupied the position in the past. No doubt newspapers now record many particulars; but he who wishes to have a view of the history of his town cannot always consult the files of a journal, and even if he could, he would miss much that has become interesting, but which at the time was thought not worthy of being preserved in a special paragraph. No better help can be given to a local historian than is provided in such minute books as those of the Gutterbluid Society.

THE INCOMERS CLUB.

The minute book of this club is also valuable, but in another sense from that of the 'Gutterbluids.' It supplies only the names of those who joined it, and a narrative of the harmonious and jovial proceedings at each meeting. But we see from its pages who came to Peebles, and what their occupations were. It is thirteen years younger than the former society, having been instituted on 10th February 1836, when a select company agreed to take supper in the Tontine Hotel "in order to congratulate each other on the encouragement and success which we have met with among the 'Gutterbluids,' and to drink prosperity to the ancient burgh." The supper was to be at the moderate figure of one shilling each—but undoubtedly, as with the other club, "drink at pleasure." The committee of management then appointed were:—Messrs Walter Thorburn, John Hume, Alexander Renton, John Paterson, Alexander Bathgate. There are copied 49 signatures to the original paper. The first meeting was held on 12th February 1836, when Mr James Donaldson, saddler, was chairman; Mr Alexander Bathgate of the English school, croupier; and when Mr John Bathgate, writer, was appointed clerk. Next year 28 were present; Dr Renton presided, Mr Fothringham was vice-chairman, and amongst others were:—Messrs John MacGowan, Hepburn Renton (who was made chaplain afterwards), John Green, Robert Craig, surgeon, and James Morrison. Each year new names appear on

the roll. Mr Cameron was the tenant of the Tontine Hotel and provided supper; the charge was 3s each; the whole bill amounting to £3, 9s. Mr Stewart of Hawkshaw was croupier in 1839, and Provost Paterson was chairman in room of Mr Thorburn, who was from home. At this meeting it is interesting to note that Mr Robert Shillinglaw had just commenced as a baker in the town, that Sheriff Burnett had arrived, and that Mr Andrew Arnott was the landlord of the "Harrow Inn." Mr William Blackwood appears in 1840, he having commenced business in the previous year. "The patriarch of the club" was Mr James Donaldson, who had come to Peebles from Lauder on 6th March 1786, and his health was duly drunk. Among the songs noted are—"The heather-bell" by Mr Gellatly, portrait painter; "The old country gentleman" by Mr Blackwood; and "Hearts of oak" by Mr Cameron. At next meeting the names of Rev. William Bliss, Mr John Willins, jun., Mr Goodburn, Provost Ker, Mr John Pairman, Mr John Welsh, of the British Linen Company Bank, and Dr Smith, Biggiesknowe, were added; while those of Mr Donaldson, the "patriarch," and Mr Alexander Durward were removed, these worthies having died. Mr John MacGowan and others had left the place, and they also were erased from the list in 1842. The Rev. Mr Adam was a frequent attender, and on one occasion (1843) when he was unable to be present, he sent an amusing poem addressed to the chairman, Mr Burnett.

Among the names occurring for several years are those of individuals long familiar in the town and neighbourhood, as Messrs Lawrence Anderson, Alex. Russell, John Stirling, Robert Stirling (who also were members of the Gutterbluid Club), Thomas Gentle, John Keddie, Andrew Buchan, Haystoune; Dr Junor, J. C. Walker, painter; W. Macnab, W. Learmonth, Andrew Balfour, Grammar School; Andrew Forbes, Tontine; George Veitch, draper; Dr John Macnab, Captain Vyner, R.N.; John Russell, Grammar School; John Buchan, writer; Walter Turnbull, Rev. Mr Monilaws, Francis Schœfer, assistant to Mr Russell, Grammar School; Rev. J. W. Semple, Charles Boyd, A. Notman, Archibald Gibson Blackie, J. Blyth, John Smith, Tontine; G. Morison, druggist; D. R. Mitchell, baker; John Melrose, draper; John Goodwillie. There is a blank in the minute-book from 1864 to 1868, when Mr Alexander Robertson was elected secretary in room of the late Mr A. G. Blackie, to whose memory a high compliment was paid. In 1869, Mr Alexander Tod, of St Mary's Mount, was chairman, while Mr Stevenson, writer, and Sheriff Hunter were croupiers. Next year Dr Connel appears as croupier, and new names crop up, as Messrs Moffat, J. M. Russell, R. L. Ker, Marshall, Tontine; Addison Smith. At the meeting in 1870 100 members appeared. The last minute is dated 9th February 1871, when a large number were present. Dr Connel was chairman, and Messrs Blackwood and Addison Smith croupiers.

It is to be regretted that, although the annual gathering has never ceased, the records have not been kept. The present secretary is Mr Andrew Brown, solicitor; and doubtless he will take care that a full and true report be preserved, not only of the harmonious proceedings, but of those incomers who arrive, who may leave the town, and who may die. Thus in after years, like the "Gutterbluid" book, that of the "Incomers" will become very valuable and interesting.

Peebles has given four Professors to the Universities of Scotland, to whom we may add Mr Haldane, the minister of Drummelzier. The four are:—Principal Lee (a sketch of whose life has been already given), Professor Buchanan, Professor Veitch, and Professor Calderwood. As the latter still adorns the Chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, we say nothing in regard to him, except that the ability with which he discharges the duties of his public position, his contributions to literature, the influence which he exercises over his students, the respect and affection with which he is regarded, prompt to the expression of the hope that he may long be spared to continue in the forefront of those eminent men who maintain the reputation of that renowned seat of learning. Peebles claims him. His parents were

Peeblean. He was educated in its schools, won the highest prizes which were bestowed, became famous for the essays he composed, and went out into the world with the certainty of rising into prominence in the world of letters. His relatives were long connected with Peebles. When he became a minister of the United Presbyterian Church he frequently preached in the pulpits of the two churches connected with that denomination; he is in the habit of visiting the locality and renewing his youthful associations with it, and he still bears a warm attachment to the hills and streams of the county. The death of Professor Veitch in 1894 was lamented not only in Peebles, but throughout the country. A memorial to his memory is to be placed in a conspicuous place in the town in which he was born, and which he loved so well. Professor Veitch was a historian, a metaphysician, and a poet. The Borderland had an unspeakable charm for him. He was born on 24th October 1829. The quaint old house in Biggiesknowe, still standing, with its well-worn steps, and plain unadorned exterior, had ever a fascination for him. Of his parents he always spoke with reverence and affection. Some of the older inhabitants remember "Sergeant Veitch," with his fishing rod and the tackle round his hat. From him he learned the "gentle art." He was his "Izaak Walton," and John was an apt disciple. Of his mother, to whom he was particularly attached, he has made touching reference in one of the poems published in the first volume of his own poetical

compositions. It was from her he derived his taste for tradition, for she was full of the kind of lore he loved; and he was often amused at the roundabout manner in which she told her stories, diverging ever and again from the main line into devious paths, from which it was difficult to wile her back. He was sent to a side school taught by Mr Smith; then to the Grammar School, of which Mr Sloane was still the rector, though failing fast and on the eve of resignation. If we mistake not, he was also under Mr Balfour and Mr Russell, Mr Sloane's successors. At any rate, he obtained the medal in his last year at school, and proceeded to the University of Edinburgh, where he soon was known as a most diligent and able student, and carried off many honours. His intention at one time was to enter the ministry of the Free Church. While in 1843 his father remained a member of the Parish Church, of which Mr Elliot was the minister, his mother "went out," and took her son with her. The Sergeant, however, would listen to no argument to follow her footsteps. He was a regular attender of the "kirk," where his familiar form, decorated with the medal he had received for his military services, might be seen every Sabbath day in the Hammermen's loft. Mr William Wallace Duncan — who had resigned the living of Cleish — was elected to the Free Church some time after 1843, and he paid great attention to the young student. Veitch passed several examinations before the Free Church Presbytery, and was on the eve of license when

he was directed into another course. But once, when Mr Duncan was suddenly prevented by illness from discharging his duties, he sent for Mr Veitch, and begged him to be his substitute. With great reluctance he consented, and having imparted the news as a secret to the author, who was, of course, permitted to be one of his hearers, he prepared to fulfil the task. He did not occupy the pulpit, but from the precentor's desk conducted the services and delivered an excellent exposition. Often afterwards, when speaking of this public appearance, he expressed the confidence he felt when he saw a certain old man, who sat in the first pew opposite the desk, after listening attentively for a few minutes, deliberately compose himself to sleep, as if perfectly satisfied with the orthodoxy of the preacher.

While a student, Mr Veitch was tutor in several families, one of these being that of a proprietor near Forres. He used frequently to speak of the weird tales he heard and of the sights seen in the lonely moors and in the old castles in the neighbourhood. He was the founder — or one of the founders—of a society called the "Peebles Literary Association," for the purpose of reading and criticising essays, and engaging in debates, such as "Was Queen Mary implicated in the murder of Darnley?" and were the "Covenanters justified in resisting the civil power?"—the stock-in-trade of all youthful debating societies. The members were:—Mr John Veitch, president; Mr Francis Schoeffer (assistant

to Mr Russell, Grammar School), secretary; Mr Angus Willins, afterwards minister of Whalsay, Shetland; Mr James Frier, afterwards minister of Free St George's, Glasgow, and later in Dumfries; Mr Thomas Bell, master of the Free Church School, afterwards in Peterhead; and the author was among the juniors who had not begun their college course. These juniors, of course, took a subordinate part in the grave business of the meetings. The society met in the small underground apartment which was dignified by the name of the Free Church Vestry. It was a very confined room, but it did not damp the ardour or restrain the eloquence of the orators. A few years later the association migrated to the Free Church School, situated on Cuddyside, and its membership increased. But somewhere far on in the "fifties," a dispute arose in its ranks about some momentous question in regard to the minute of a meeting, and waxed so serious that a "disruption" occurred. The seceders numbered amongst them Messrs Veitch, Willins, and the author. A new society was started, with Mr John Russell as president. There was recently discovered some of the correspondence on the occasion, which was forwarded to Professor Veitch for his amusement, along with the account of the intromissions of the treasurer. The funds in his hands never exceeded the sum of four shillings and sixpence, which consisted of entry-money and fines!

In the lower flat of the house in Biggiesknowe was a room specially fitted up as Mr Veitch's study,

and there he worked hard and unremittingly. The back window looked out to the gardens between the house and the Cuddy. There Veitch translated Descartes' *Method* and *Meditations*. It was then esteemed his great work—the climax. There, too, he wrote and corrected the proof sheets of the *Memoirs of Dugald Stewart;* and those who have read it will remember the interesting appendix in which is given letters respecting a servant girl who was able to discourse sweetest music, speak foreign languages, discuss persons and paintings and politics in her sleep—a girl who in her waking moments was not only illiterate but stupid.

When the author went to college, John Veitch was reader to Sir William Hamilton, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in Edinburgh University — that is to say, he read Sir William's lectures to his class; as he, having had a severe paralytic shock, was unable to do so himself. When Veitch resigned, he was succeeded by Mr Alexander Nicholson, who was well known in later years as the genial Sheriff-Substitute of Kirkcudbright—an excellent Gaelic scholar, a witty poet, a graceful prose writer, and an accomplished scholar. Of Veitch's Professorships in St Andrews and Glasgow, of his *Memoir of Sir William Hamilton*, his *Lucretius and the Atomic Theory*, his *Institutes of Logic*, and his other philosophic works, it is not necessary here to speak. In the department of lighter literature his two outstanding publications are the *History and Poetry of the Scottish Border*, and *The*

Feeling for Nature in Scottish Poetry. These will remain monuments of his wide and careful study both of Scottish antiquities and of Scottish writers. The latter is an able and appreciative sketch of the rise in the early poets of that feeling of admiration for the grand and beautiful which was so powerfully developed in Sir Walter Scott, James Hogg, John Leyden, and also in his own breast. Among his later contributions to *Blackwood's Magazine* was that in which he gave some letters written to one of the Burnetts of Barns in 1745. He also contributed to *Blackwood* papers of which Manor Water and "Bow'd Davie of the Wudhouse" formed the chief subject. As we have said, he was intensely fond of Peebles; not, perhaps, as the town is now, but as it was in his early days. His constant ambition was to have a residence in the neighbourhood of his native town. He made "The Loaning" his beautiful, as it was his favourite, home. In the grounds around the house he took the most intense pleasure. It was quiet, secluded, and charming. Though he often went to the Continent, it was at "The Loaning" he spent the happiest months of his holidays; seeing his friends, taking his long walks over the hills, and drinking in inspiration on the height or by the burnside.

It need not be said that by his death all lovers of Border history have sustained a severe, an irreparable loss—that the literature of the Borders has been deprived of an author who contributed to it as much, if not more, than any author of our own

times. For no one was so deeply imbued with the spirit of the Borderland, so thoroughly conversant with its antiquities and traditions, so familiar with the old-world tales associated with ruined keep and lonely tower, so passionately fond of the ballads which celebrated the exploits of the heroes of the past, so conversant with the lays of the minstrels who had tuned their harps to stirring incidents of love or war. Himself a poet, he revelled in the poetry of the Border. Scott, Hogg, and Leyden were the three magicians to whose enchantments he willingly yielded; while, at the same time, he was a profound admirer of Wordsworth, whose influence may be distinctly traced throughout his own compositions. Under the spell of Walter Scott he moved about amid the scenes of which the "Mighty Minstrel" sung—the vale of Yarrow, the shores of "lone St Mary's silent lake," the banks of the Tweed and the Teviot, the green hills of his native county, the glens and burns which were dear to him, and which were haunted by the memories of other days. To Peeblesshire he was devotedly attached. He had carefully studied the records which bore on the chief events that concerned it, and the old families which belonged to it. No Peeblean could have produced a more instructive and interesting history of the county and burgh. It would have been no dry statement of facts, no bald enumeration of details—entertaining enough to the antiquary—but a work charming with its legendary lore, long forgotten rhymes, stories of apparitions once firmly

believed in, and vivid picturesque descriptions of society at a period too often ignored or scorned by the present generation. Peebles town alone would have had appropriate tales affixed to every nook and corner, and the "former times" would have been recalled and bathed in the glow of warmest sympathy. He died in September 1894, and his funeral was large and representative.

The Turnbulls have been mentioned at page 90 as a family long connected with the burgh, and a tradition exists that they are descended from an old Border clan of the name of "Ruel," or "Rule," whose home was once in Bedrule parish, Teviotdale. There is a story to the effect that when King Robert Bruce was, on a certain day, hunting near Stirling, he was attacked by an infuriated bull which had been driven to bay. It was probably one of a herd of wild Caledonian cattle roaming about that part of the country. In the royal bodyguard was a man called "Ruel," or "Rule," possessed of great physical strength, who boldly rushed forward, seized and slew the animal—thus preserving the life of his sovereign, whose decree was that henceforth his courageous deliverer and his descendants should be named "Turn-bull," in memory of the event. This hero, it is alleged, met his death years after-

wards in single combat with a man of the name of "Venal," who not only killed him, but his large and faithful dog, which always followed his footsteps. Close by the manse of Bedrule are traces of a strong keep, which was the abode of the Turnbulls, whose independence of authority and turbulence proved their ruin, about 1494. A lineal descendant of the first "Turn-bull," born in Bedrule before the punishment inflicted by James IV., rose to high rank. He was made Archdeacon of St Andrews and Keeper of the Privy Seal, by favour of James II.; and he will be ever retained in honourable remembrance as the founder of Glasgow University, which was opened in 1451, and to which, in 1453, James granted a special charter.

Leyden alludes to the story in his *Scenes of Infancy* thus:—

"Between red ezlar banks that frightful scowl,
Fringed with grey hazel, roars the mining Roull;
Where Turnbulls once, a race no power could awe,
Lined the rough skirts of stormy Ruberslaw.
Bold was the chief, from whom their line they drew,
Whose nervous arm the furious bison slew;

. . . . . .

His arms robust the hardy hunter flung
Around his bending horns, and upward wrung,
With writhing force his neck retorted round,
And roll'd the panting monster on the ground,
Crushed, with enormous strength, his bony skull;
And courtiers hailed the man who "turned-the-bull!"

John M'Ewen, Town-Clerk (page 46), held that office in 1759. He was suspended on 7th November 1774, when Mr James Summers, writer, was temporarily appointed in his place. Mr Summers' appointment was confirmed at the annual election in October 1775. He died in August 1781. Mr Robertson, Sheriff-Clerk, and Mr William Little, Writer, competed for the office, but were rejected—the first, because an Act of Council forbade the appointment of Sheriff-Clerk as Town-Clerk, and Mr Little because he was not a Notary Public. Mr M'Ewen was then reponed, and held the office until 14th October 1783, when on account of his age and infirmity he retired; and Mr William Little (who had probably qualified as a notary) was elected, under a burden of a yearly payment of £6 to Mr M'Ewen, and also the yearly payment to the Widows' Fund. The above information has been kindly supplied by Mr W. Buchan, Town-Clerk, who also has shown to the author a letter from Mr Walter Scott, W.S. (father of Sir Walter), congratulating Mr Little on his appointment. It is to the following effect:—

EDINBURGH, 9th October 1783.

SIR,—I this day received yours of the 7th instant, and I do most sincerely congratulate you upon your appointment to the Clerkship of the Town of Peebles. May you long enjoy it. If anything shall ever occur in the course of that employment or any other branch of your profession, you may, if you please, let

me know; any advice or assistance I can give shall be at your service. I did expect to have seen you last time you was here, but you was better employed. You did right to fall in with Lord Eliock's views, and it was also very proper to confer a favour upon poor M'Ewen. . . . Now that you are fairly installed in two very creditable offices I will beg leave to advise you to beware not to split upon the rock which has been the ruin of several of your predecessors in office. It will be a good resolution never to drink with those people with whom you do business in ordinary, as too often is the case in small towns. It is by that little and frequent drinking that the strong habit of it is acquired. I do not mention this from thinking you have any propensity that way, but as such habits grow insensibly, such admonition may put you on your guard.

I am glad to hear that Mr Alexander is your Provost, because I believe he is your friend. Provost Kerr's interest will increase if he do not seem to court it. The less such things are apparently sought for, the more by discreet management they will grow; and he knows very well how to conduct himself. . . . I have only to add that I am your sincere friend and well-wisher,

WALTER SCOTT.

The above is the letter of a man of great sagacity and knowledge of the world; and no doubt Mr Little profited by Mr Scott's advice. Mr Little died in June 1795; and Mr Alexander Williamson was appointed on the 20th of that month.

One of the visits of Sir Walter (then Mr) Scott to Peebles and its neighbourhood is recorded at page 78. A melancholy interest attaches to his last appearance in the burgh. It was on the occasion of his journey to Douglas Castle, which he was

describing in *Castle Dangerous*—a novel which bears unmistakeable evidence of the decline of those powers by which he charmed the world. He wished to verify some features of the scenery around Douglas Castle, traversed the road in his carriage, taking easy stages. He rested a short time at Peebles, and then proceeded by Neidpath Castle on his journey.

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